

GHOST IN THE SHELL

In a world where the human mind can be programmed like a computer, at what point does the human soul end and the cybernetic machinery begin?

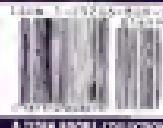
What does it mean to be human?

From *Mesrine*, *Shiroen*, the creator of *Appleseed*, *Orion*, and *Blame!*, here *Ghost*! An epic, lyrical tale of families, secret operations, and cyborgs with too much attitude.



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GHOST IN THE SHELL



MASAMUNE SHIROW

SERIES EDITORS

**PEET JANES
GREG VEST
MARILEE HORD**

COLLECTION EDITOR

LYNN ADAIR

COLLECTION DESIGNER

TEENA GORES

COLLECTION DESIGN MANAGER

BRIAN GOGOLIN

DIGITAL RETOUCH TECHNICIANS

**SHAWN STURDS
MICHAEL DENNING**

THE **HOST** **IN THE SHELL**

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY
MASAMUNE SHIROW

TRANSLATED BY
FREDERIK SCHOOT
TOREN SMITH

LETTERING AND RETOUCH BY
TOM DRZECHOWSKI
SUSIE LEE



TITAN BOOKS

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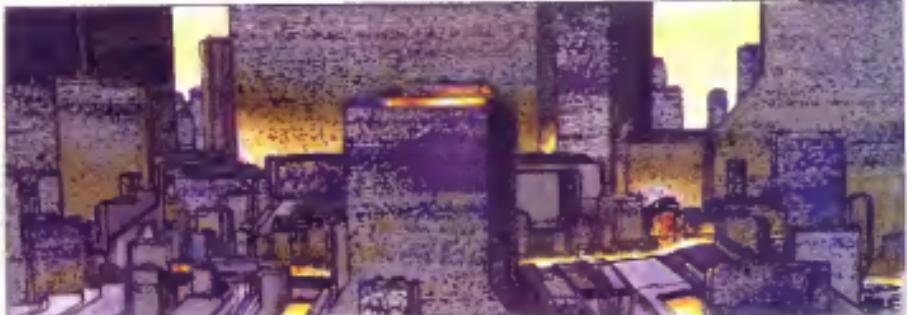
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This book collects issues one through eight of the
Dark Horse comic-book series *Ghost in the Shell*.



It is the near future. The world has become highly information-intensive, with a vast corporate network covering the planet, electrons and light pulsing through it. But the nation-state and ethnic groups still survive.

And on the edge of Asia, in a strange corporate conglomerate-state called "Japan"...

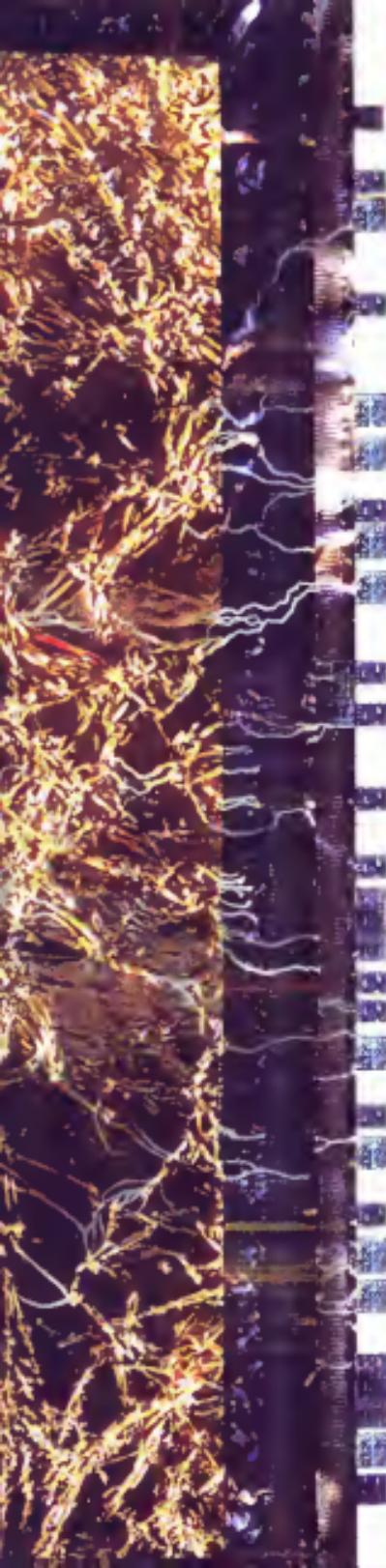


01

PROLOGUE



This is a photograph of a growth-type neurochip, created at Harima Science City in 1998 (enlarged 50,000 times). The cells are nearly dead from over-growth, and cracks in neurofibers can be observed throughout the chip. Neuro-fibers have grown all the way out to the chip terminals, which are made of a relative of polystyrene coated with galactose. The fibers have even warped the thin film base on which the terminals themselves are etched. In the same month that the chip was developed, vast capital corporations (largely media conglomerates) began to form a huge network in the medical world that used micro-machines as supplementary "cyber-brains." Cyberbrain technology thereafter began shifting to a micromachine base, and by the year 2028 large numbers of neurochips were in use in AI and robotics.



SO WHY
ARE WE STILL
TALKING
ABOUT
SILICON
DEPOSITS?



March 5, 2029. Newport City, a floating metropolis in Shinhamma Prefecture.



IT'S A GOOD ENOUGH
REASON FOR THE
GOVERNMENT TO
GUARANTEE THAT
IT WON'T INTERFERE
WITH YOUR NATION'S
"POLICY OF NOT
RECOGNIZING
SEPARATION AND
INDEPENDENCE."



THE EARLIER
PROMISE OF
"EXTENDING AID
IF INDEPENDENCE
IS RECOGNIZED"
WAS ONLY
MADE IN
PRINCIPLE, AND
DOES NOT
CONFLICT
WITH OUR
"TRADE."

WE'LL GO
THROUGH
A THIRD-
PARTY
NATION.

THAT'S FINE.

AFTER ALL, IF A NATION OF SLAVES WITHHOLDS ITS SERVICES, THE MASTER NATION STARVES...

...AND A CHRONIC MANPOWER SHORTAGE WILL GIVE THE SLAVE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY A SHOT IN THE ARM.

OF COURSE, IT ISN'T DEViating A BIT FROM SOCIALISM.

I'M AMAZED AT YOUR COUNTRY... THE BRAINS CALL IT CAPITALIST, BUT IT'S REALLY AN IDEAL SOCIALIST STATE, ISN'T IT...?

LABOR CONDITIONS JUST DON'T WORK OUT THAT WAY... THE BRAINS CAN BE MANIPULATED WHEN NECESSARY WITH AN ALLOTMENT OF BLOOD...

WHERE THE HELL'S UNIT 2?

THINK IT'S A TERRORIST BOMBING?

C'MON, FOLKS-- QUIETLY AND QUICKLY!

CITIZEN EVACUATION COMPLETED, SIR!

THERE'S AN AWFUL LOT OF NOISE AROUND HERE. PRESSURE'S AWFUL HIGH, TOO...

MAJOR... SECURITY'S ALL READY TO GO...

I HEAR YOU, I HEAR YOU...

LEAVE THE DAMN CODE ENCRYPTION UP TO THE AI AND THE WHOLE WORLD'LL HEAR US...





THE POLICE HAVE THEIR TARGET SURROUNDED. BUT IF THEY FIRE THEY'LL HIT THEIR COMMANDERS. I DON'T RECOMMEND TRYING THIS, DEAR FRIENDS...

WELL, WELL... IF IT ISN'T A FAR EAST TRADE REP, AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AND AN EXECUTIVE OF THE UNION....

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND US IMPOUNDING YOUR WEAPONS...

POLICE DAMN YOU, ARAMAKI!

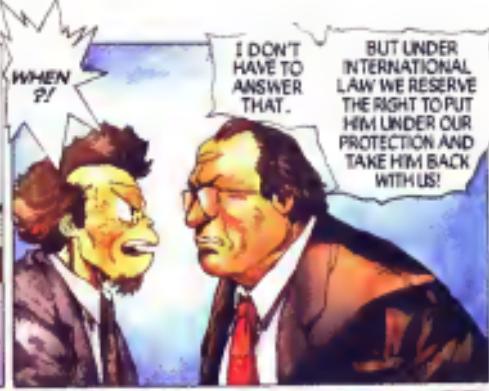


AND NOW WE'VE FINALLY GOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO DECLARE YOU ALL PERSONA NON GRATA AND DEPORT YOU.

AND AS FOR MR. ITO, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO HAVE YOU ATTEND A LITTLE HEARING.

WE'LL NEED YOU, SIR, TO TESTIFY IN DETAIL ON THE ASSASSINATION OF OUR LATE PRIME MINISTER AND ON WHO LEAKED THE INFORMATION ABOUT HIS CONFERENCE SITE.

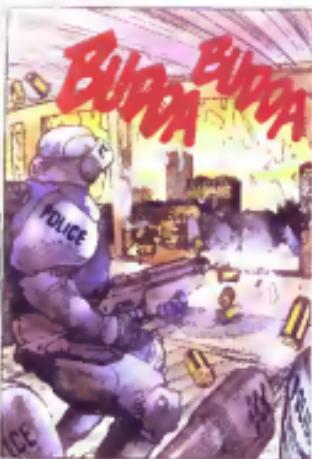




12. PEDILO LIKED TO TAKE PEOPLE AS HOSTAGES UNTIL THEY RECOGNIZED THEM AS ENEMIES, AND THEN EXCHANGED THEM FOR SITES. ERIC WOOD HAVE BEEN CAUGHT



DELAYED-FUSE SOFT-HEAD EXPLOSIVE SHELLS



2902 REFERS TO A MODIFIED MODEL BUILT IN THE YEAR 2029.

The following day, the woman (a female model cyborg) was seated in the office of the Minister of Internal Affairs



... with an assassination order issued by the former prime minister.

The only thing certain was that there had been a need to resolve a crisis and that the woman (or women) known as Major Motoko Kusanagi (obviously an alias) was extremely talented.

02

SUPER
SPARTAN

10.4.2029



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beep beep

TIME TO
GET TO
WORK,
MAJOR.

I WANT
YOU TO
JOIN JUSSEN
IN SOUTH
SHINHAMA
WARD 4
AND STAND
BY

"WORK."
?!
WHAT'S
THAT?

THE BUDGET YOU
IDIOTS ASKED FOR
PASSED, SO GET
YOUR BUTTS
IN GEAR!

HEY,
FUCHI-
KOMA!
GOT THE
CONFIR-
MATION
?

N-NO,
MA'AM!
WELL,
THEY
GET
ME
WITH IT!

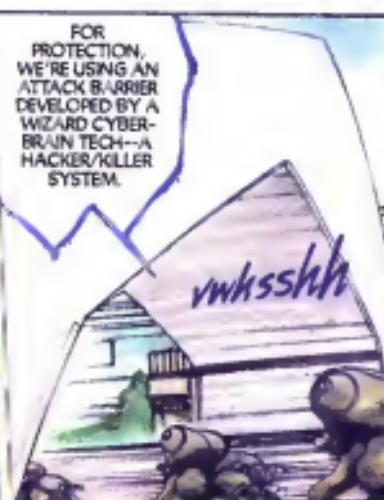


HAVE- REPORT-
THAT- BUDGET-
HAS- PASSED-
IN- 327TH-
SECTION- OF-
NATIONAL-
COUNCIL-
NOW-
RECONFIRMING

OKAY/
OUR ROUND-
THE-CLOCK
CHERRY
BLOSSOM
VIEWING
PARTY'S
OVER!

NOW I'M
GONNA TAKE
YOU GUYS
TO A STRIP
JOINT!









WELL
THEN,
YOU
DON'T
NEED
US...

SEE
YA
LATER...

BUT
THEY'VE
GOT A
GHOST
CONTROLLER.
MAJOR--
A BRAIN
WASHER.

HOW
ANACHRO-
NISTIC...!

THIS RELIEF
CENTER'S
KNOWN FOR
THE WIDE
VARIETY OF
TALENTED
PEOPLE IT
PRODUCES.

POLITICIANS,
CRITICS,
CRIMINALS,
ETC....

PRETTY
MUCH
ALL THE
SAME...

AT THE
PUBLIC
SECURITY
BUREAU
THEY
CALL
IT A
"HUMAN
FACTORY..."

THEY
NEED IT
BUT A FEW
BAD APPLES
CAN CREATE
A REAL
SOCIAL
PROBLEM...

MAH...
YOU
MEAN
THE BAD
APPLES
ARE
AFRAID
OF BAD APPLES?

THIS IS
A HC-25
DRAWING
HACKED OUT
OF THE LAB'S
CYBER-
BRAIN.

BUT
WITHOUT
ANY PROOF,
WE CAN'T
PURSUE THE
MATTER
FUR-
THER...

With the
last drawing
and the real
Marty of
Doom, it's
all over.



"B&E"...

"WET-
WORK"...

NO!
NOTHING
LIKE THAT !!

THE GOAL HERE IS TO BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THE PROBLEM AND TO "ARREST" THEM IF NEED BE...

TO "OFFICIALLY" DO THAT WITHOUT ANY EVIDENCE OR AN ARREST WARRANT?

SO WHY DO THEY HAVE IT HERE...?

THEY'VE TRIED TO GET A HACKER IN AND FAILED, EH?

TOO MUCH FOR ME...

DO YOU WANT TO SYNCHRO-DIVE AND CHECK?

THE CENTRAL CYBER-BRAIN BARRIER HERE IS A COMPLEX MAZE OF SIMULATED EXPERIENCES, SO THEY COULDN'T INFILTRATE IT, BUT THEY DEFINITELY GOT A HIT.

THE MANAGER OF THE DUPLICATE CODE KEY FOR THE LAB'S CENTRAL CYBERBRAIN IS FROM HERE, AFTER ALL...

"CHURSE. HE'S MISSING FROM TIBURON."

DAMN THAT ARAMAKI-- HE'S TRYING TO FORCE US INTO AN ATTACK BASED ON FALSE INTEL AND THEN IF THERE'S A LAW-SUIT HE'LL HANG ME OUT TO DRY...

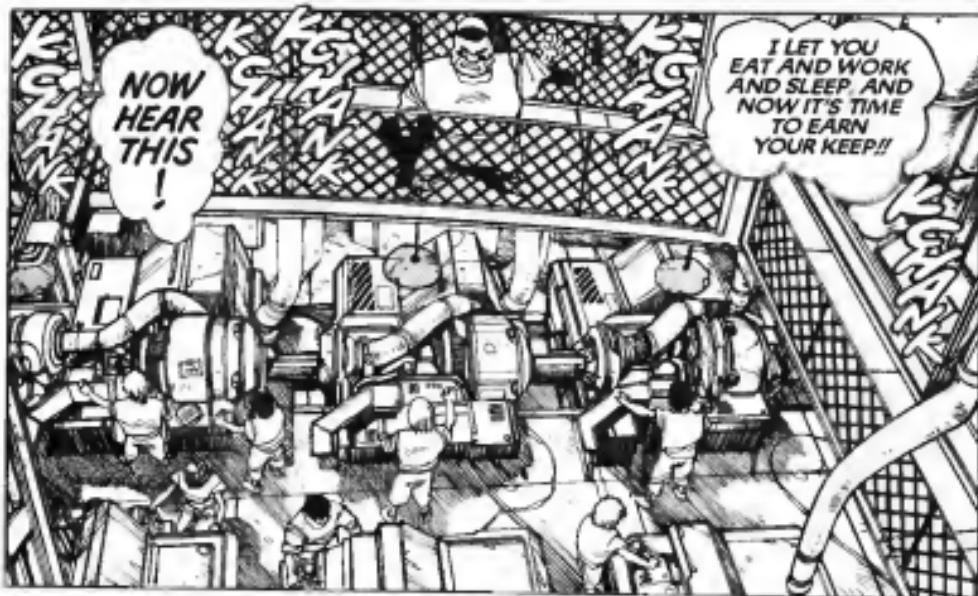
CAN'T KEEP DOING THESE STUPID INVESTIGATIONS FOR-EVER...

SO IT'S ARAMAKI WHO'S IN THE WAY...



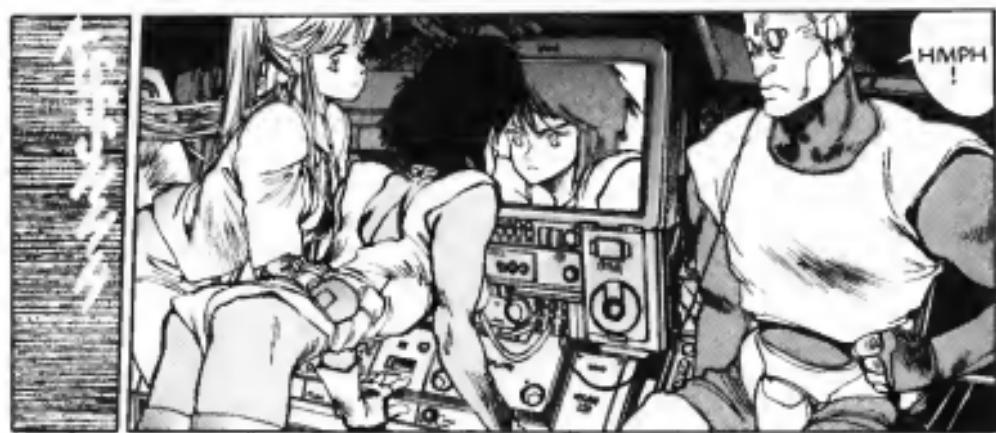












TOSUSA,
ISHIKAWA--
I WANT
YOU TO
PLANT A
MINI-SPIDER
IN THE KID
WHO
ESCAPED!



IN A WORST
CASE SITUATION,
THIS'LL AT LEAST
GIVE US AN
EXCUSE. GOOD
THINKING,
EH?

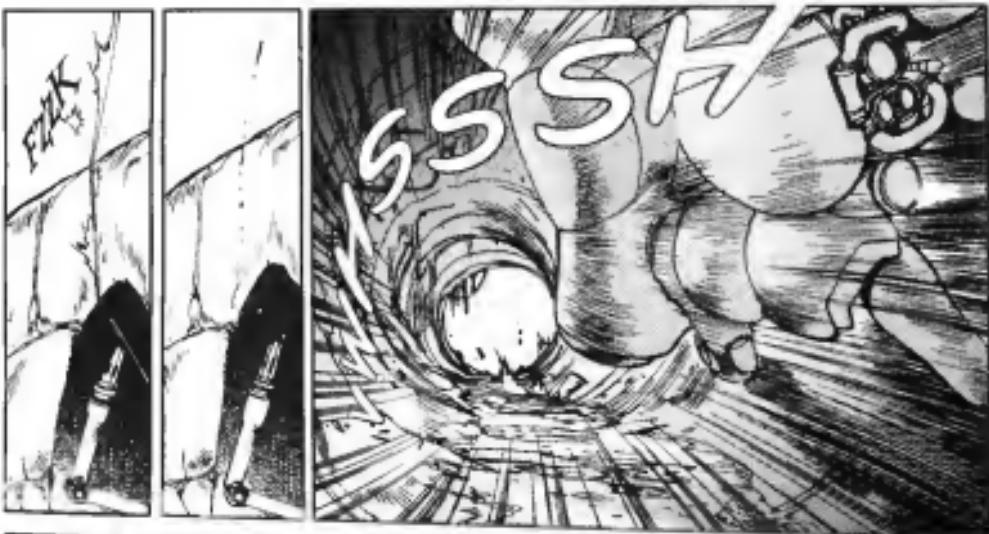


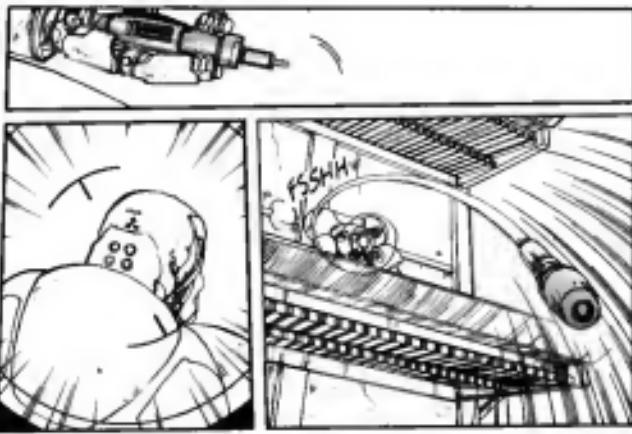
SO YOU'LL TAKE
RESPONSIBILITY,
AND RETIRE FROM
THE SCENE SO
THE SQUAD'LL
BE ABLE TO
CONTINUE,
RIGHT?



'COURSE
I APPRE-
CIATE
THE
SEN-
TI-
MENT,
THOUGH.



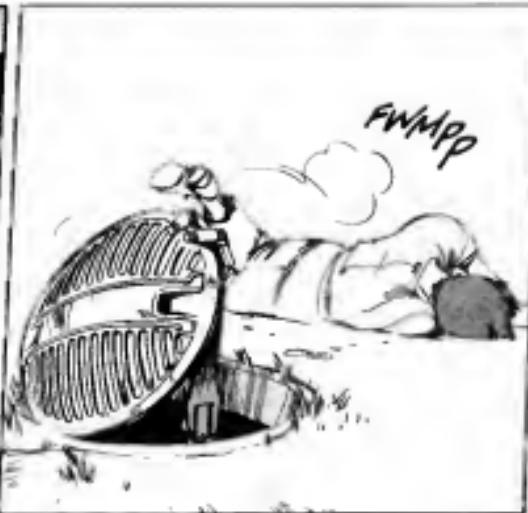
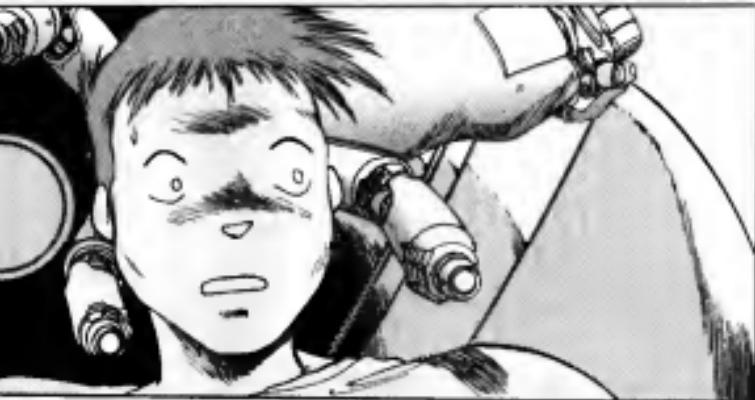


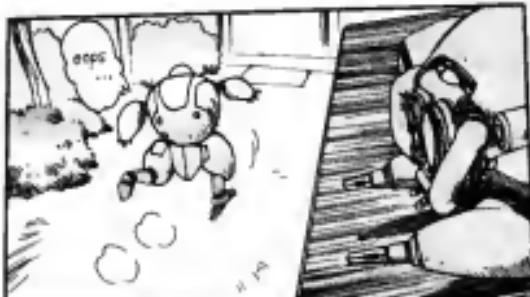


THEIR
SECURITY'LL
"SLEEP"
FOR 25
SECONDS.
YOU GOT
THAT,
KIDDÓ
?



WHA-
?!





GOVERN-
MENT-
ISSUE
OPTO-
CNS.
ANYWAY.



HMM...
SO THIS
REALLY
IS A
GOVERN-
MENT
FACILITY...

SO IF WE
CHARGE IN
HERE OLD APE-
FACE'LL HAVE
TO RESIGN...
HMM...
SOMETHING
STINKS HERE...

LOOKS
FISHY,
ALL
RIGHT...





WELL, EITHER WAY, CHARGING IN THERE'LL CREATE A REAL SCANDAL...

EITHER WE'RE GONNA GET BURNED BY THIS, OR SOME POLITICIAN WILL... OR THE KIDS WILL.

OKAY, MEN! PREPARE TO ATTACK!

IF THE BRAIN-WASH MECH GETS IN THE WAY, WE'LL TAKE IT OUT!

UNITS LIKE OURS ARE ALWAYS NECESSARY, SO WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO LOSE.

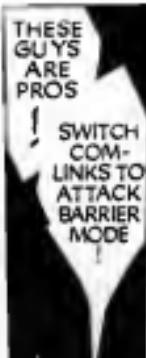
A SCANDAL OP, WITH POLITICIANS DETHRONED AND KIDS BRAIN-WASHED...

WE MADE A DEAL WITH APE-FACE TO GET RID OF THE ASSHOLES WHO PULL THIS KIND OF SHIT.

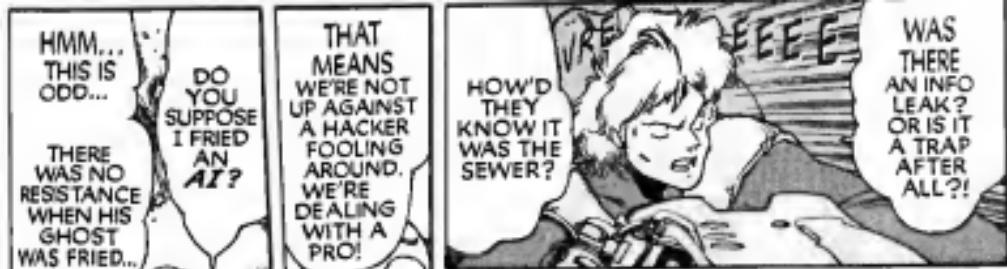
SO LET'S DO IT!

A LITTLE VOICE IS URGING ME ON...

MY GHOST!



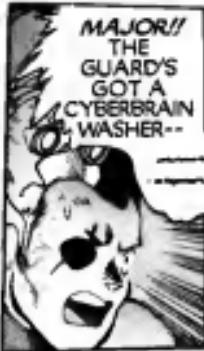
















SHIT, THAT WAS CLOSE! GOOD THING I HAD MY ACTIVE PROTECTOR SUIT ON... I'VE GOTTA WIPE THAT WEIRD SQUAD LEADER BROAD...





* NAME OF AN ALL-WEATHER, THERMO-OPTICAL CAMOUFLAGE SUIT. KYO-RE IS THE MANUFACTURER'S NAME.

OKAY!
OKAY!
I GIVE UP!
JUST DON'T
HURT MY
BRAIN!
WE'RE
BOTH PROS,
RIGHT!?
I'M JUST
DOING MY
JOB!

HAND
OVER THE
CYBER-
BRAIN
WASHER
AND YOUR
GHOST
INFILTRA-
TION
PROGRAM.

OKAY,
OKAY, I'LL
GIVE 'EM TO
YOU. HELL,
THEY'RE
NOT THAT
IMPORTANT
ANYWAY..

DID YOU
FRY A
HACKER
ABOUT FIVE
HOURS
AGO?



I'M A GHOST
THAT HATES
CYBERBRAIN
WASHING. I'M
ARRESTING YOU FOR
VIOLATING CYBER-
BRAIN ETHICS.

YOU GUYS FROM SECURITY?
WHAT CAN THEY DO?! NOTHING'S GOING TO CHANGE, YOU KNOW...

NEITHER THE FACILITIES OR THE CYBERBRAIN WASHING...

THANK GOD, MA'AM! YOU'VE COME TO FINALLY FREE US. HAVEN'T YOU?

WHAT ?!



WHAT DO YOU WANT ?

DO YOU JUST WANT TO EAT AND CONTRIBUTE NOTHING, TO BE BRAINWASHED BY MEDIA TRASH? TO SACRIFICE THE NATION'S FUTURE FOR YOUR OWN SELFISHNESS ?

BUT... BUT... THAT'S NOT WHAT...

LISTEN, KID-- YOU'VE GOT A GHOST, AND A BRAIN... AND YOU CAN ACCESS A CYBER-BRAIN.

CREATE YOUR OWN FUTURE...

IT'S EASY. IT'S EASY. IT'S EASY.





HM
?







I SAID THE BUDGET HAD PASSED FOR AN INTER-NATIONAL ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT, BUT THAT WAS A LIE.

INSTEAD, AN "INTERNATIONAL HOSTAGE RESCUE UNIT" WILL BE FORMED WITH THREE TIMES MORE FUNDING THAN YOU REQUESTED.

THIS HELPS US AVOID BEING CALLED AN SDF THAT KILLS CIVILIANS, OR A "CRUEL SUPER-POWER." AT LEAST IN THEORY...

EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE BUDGET GOES TO THE FORMATION OF A SPECIAL POWER-SUIT ASSAULT FORCE....

I'LL HAVE FULL RESPONSIBILITY, REPORTING ONLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER. THE UNIT STRUCTURE'LL BE BASED ON SKILL AND MERIT, WITH NO RANKS, AND GIVEN TOP PRIORITY IN PROCUREMENT.

YOU'LL IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND ELIMINATE IT. IT'S THE SORT OF OFFENSIVE UNIT YOU AND I HAVE BOTH DREAMED OF FOR YEARS... BUT NOW IT'S UP TO YOU AND YOUR MEN.



ANOTHER ROUND OF THE SAME FOR EVERYONE...

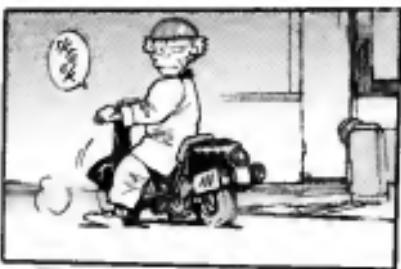
I WANT
YOU TO LOOK
OVER THIS CON-
TRACT, SIGN IT,
AND BRING IT TO
ME BY OH-SIX
HUNDRED TO-
MORROW...

AT EIGHT
WE'RE GOING
TO BE OVER-
SEEING
COLLECTION
OF ALL THE
CYBER-
BRAINWASH
DEVICES.

THEY
WERE
CLASSI-
FIED AS
"WASTE-
FUL,"
AND CUT
OUT
OF THE
"BUDGET."

I'LL BE
WAITING
FOR YOU
TOMOR-
ROW...







03

JUNK
JUNGLE

27.7.2023



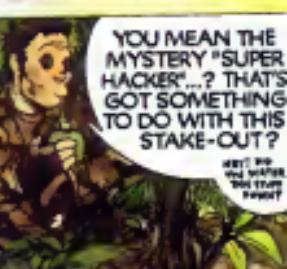
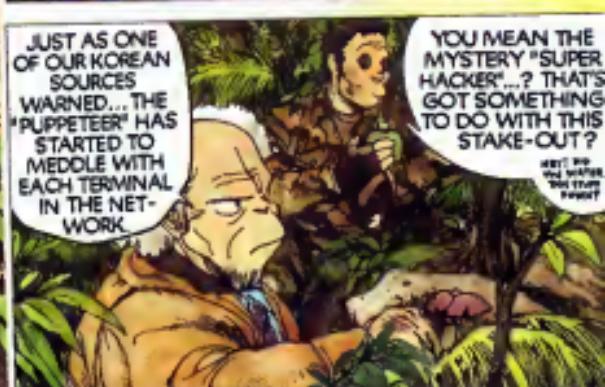
GORGIN MINE. AN ENGLISH-TYPE ANTI-PERSONNEL CANISTER MINE THAT JUMPS UP ABOUT TWO METERS WHEN TRIGGERED AND THEN SCATTERS A HUNDRED MINI-MINES (TRIGGERED TWO SECONDS AFTER LANDING BY ANY VIBRATION OCCURRING WITHIN A THREE METER RADIUS).



AFTER THIRTY-
TWO HOURS ON
STAKEOUT, I'VE HAD
TWO PHONE CALLS,
AND THAT'S ALL...
NO REPLACEMENT,
NO PIZZA, NO
NOTHING...



DON'T
MIND IF I
DO...



WE'RE
THE
WORLD
THIS TIME
TOGETHER





FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, THEY'RE PLANNING ON INTERFERING WITH THE SECRET MEETING WITH THE GAVEL REPUBLIC...

WELL, IN THAT CASE IT'S HARDLY A SECRET MEETING, IS IT...

SO, I'M STAKING OUT SOMEBODY WHO LEAKED THE INFO ON THE MEETING, EH? THE GUY WHO TRIED TO INTERFERE BY HIRING THE 'PUPPETEER'?

HE'S JUST THE LEADER OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT, APPLYING FOR ASYLUM... THAT'S ALL.

YOU CAME OUT HERE JUST TO TELL ME THAT?

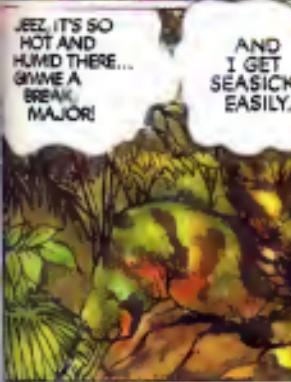
OF COURSE NOT! I WANT YOU TO CALL MAJOR KUSANAGI ON YOUR ENCRYPTED CHANNEL. TELL HER TO REPORT TO FLAT #17!

BUT SHE'S ON R&R CHIEF...

WELL, IT'S CANCELLED...

UH-OH...





MOTOKO, HOW COULD YOU? THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS, BUT STILL--YOU PROMISED TO SPEND YOUR LEAVE WITH US!

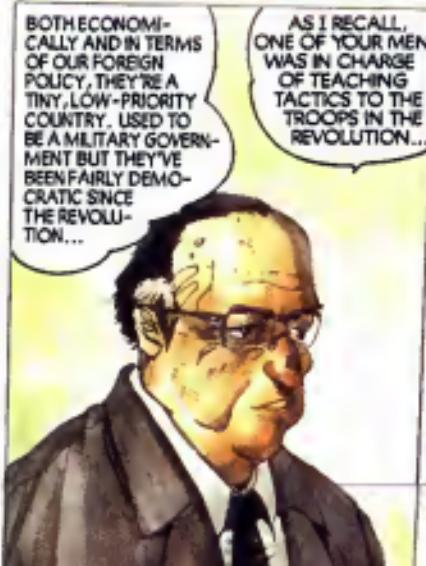
WELL, THE DRUG'S LOCKED OUT NOW, AND MY LEAVE'S BEEN CANCELLED...



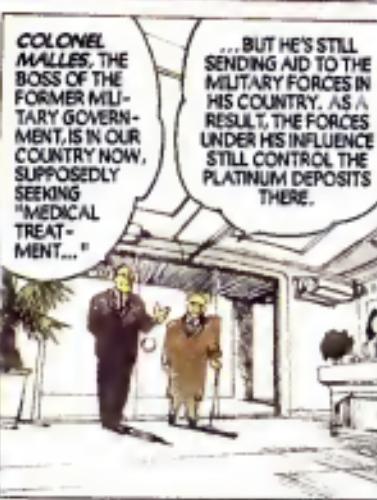
WHUP
WHUP WHUP
WHUP



WHUPP
WHUPP



AS I RECALL, ONE OF YOUR MEN WAS IN CHARGE OF TEACHING TACTICS TO THE TROOPS IN THE REVOLUTION...



... AND THE SECRET MEETING ?

IT'S JUST THE ODA SPINNING ITS WHEELS.

IT DOESN'T EARN ANY OF THE MONEY IT USES AFTER ALL. AND NOBODY RECEIVING IT FEELS GRATEFUL, EITHER, BECAUSE THEY THINK THEY DESERVE IT AFTER BEING EXPLOITED...

TOUGH SITUATION, ISN'T IT? YOU KNOW THE MASS MEDIA'S GOING TO LEAK SOME OFF-THE-RECORD STATEMENTS...

SO WHAT'S THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION?

GAVEL'S IN AN EXTRA-ORDINARILY DELICATE POSITION RIGHT NOW. IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL, IT'LL BE HARD TO CONTROL PUBLIC OPINION.

EITHER WE KICK OUT COLONEL MALLE AND CONTINUE TO PROMOTE AID TO THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT OF GAVEL, OR WE OFFICIALLY GIVE HIM ASYLUM AND STOP ALL AID...

IT SURE WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON THE FLOW OF THAT PLATINUM MONEY...

HMPH... SOME "REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE." WONDER WHY IT ALWAYS COMES DOWN TO MONEY...?

NOW, THERE *IS* SOMEONE WHO DID GIVE CONSIDERABLE GUIDANCE TO THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT ON TACTICS...

AH, BUT WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO WASTE TAX-PAYERS' FUNDS.





YA GOTTA TELL ME, MAJOR... I HEARD THIS FROM MAYUMI, IN SECURITY'S ARMORY, BUT I DON'T BEL--

YOU MEAN THAT SHE'S REALLY SIXTY-TWO YEARS OLD?

WHAT? NO SHIT!

SO IS IT REALLY TRUE SHE CAN HIT A PINHEAD WITH A 3.5" BARREL SEBUBOTM SNAB AT 25 YARDS, FIRING TWELVE ROUNDS IN THREE SECONDS?

HEY, TOGUSA, EVERYONE CAN DO THAT... EXCEPT YOU AND SAITO.

AW, C'MON... DON'T PICK ON ME, MAJOR.

WITH HUMAN SILHOUETTES SHE USUALLY HITS THE MARK AT 100 YARDS.

SNABS ARE REALLY DESIGNED TO BE USED AGAINST THE ENEMY AT UNDER FIVE YARDS, BUT THERE'S NOTHING THAT SPECIAL ABOUT WHAT SHE CAN DO...

BUT I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN ANYONE DO THAT AT THE SHOOTING RANGE! 'COURSE, I'M NOT SPECIAL "A" RANK MYSELF...

WHAT WE REALLY NEED, TOGUSA, IS NOT SHARPSHOOTING SKILLS, SO MUCH AS THE ABILITY TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO MAKE SURE THE ENEMY CAN BE KILLED.

IF YOU WANT TO PLAY AT LONG-RANGE SNIPING, YOU CAN ALWAYS GO SHOOT AN ELEPHANT AT 500 MILES WITH A MINIATURE CRUISE MISSILE...

BY THE WAY, WHY ARE YOU USING A REVOLVER FOR YOUR MAIN GUN?

IN A TWO-MAN CELL, AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF IT JAMMING, EVEN IF YOU'RE CARRYING TWO GUNS?

I HAPPEN TO LIKE THE M2007!

SEBUTO™ C-25: THINK OF IT AS AN MP90 WITH A LOWER MAGAZINE!

WELL, AS THE ONE BEING BACKED-UP, I'M MORE INTERESTED IN BEING PROTECTED THAN IN WHAT GUN YOU LIKE BEST...

I'M THE ONE IN THE LINE OF FIRE, AFTER ALL. DO ME A FAVOR, TOGUSA, AND CARRY A 20-SHOT, 5mm SEBUTO™...

YEAH, YEAH... SHIT.

AND WHAT THE HELL'S THIS? THIS ASSHOT GUN'S GOT A SHORT RANGE AND CAN'T EVEN PENETRATE A CAR DOOR! WHAT GOOD IS IT? DON'T EXPECT IT TO HAVE ANY PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT ON A PRO, AND FOR ANYTHING OVER 30 YARDS YOU NEED AN ASSAULT RIFLE ANYWAY...

HEY, IT'LL GO THROUGH A MERCEDES DOOR -- I'VE GOT IT FILLED WITH SLUGS.

AND IN-DOORS I CAN USE IT TO BLAST A HOLE IN WALLS...

SURE YOU'RE NOT CONFUSING HUNTING HUMANS WITH MAKING MINCE-MEAT?

FOR CLOSE-RANGE WORK AND PIERCING POWER USE THE SEBUTO™, FOR WALLS AND DISTANCE USE A RIFLE!

STILL, I REALLY THINK I COULD USE IT...

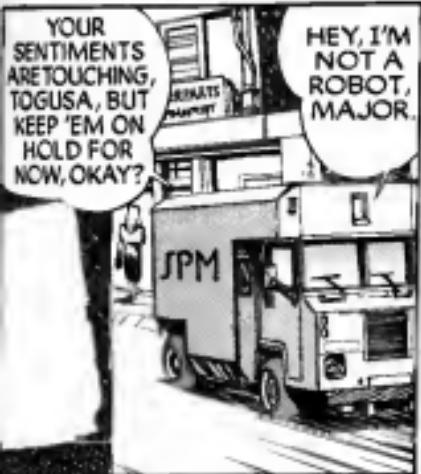
WELL, THIS TIME YOU WON'T NEED IT.

WE'RE TRACING THE HACKER THAT INFILTRATED THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S INTERPRETER.

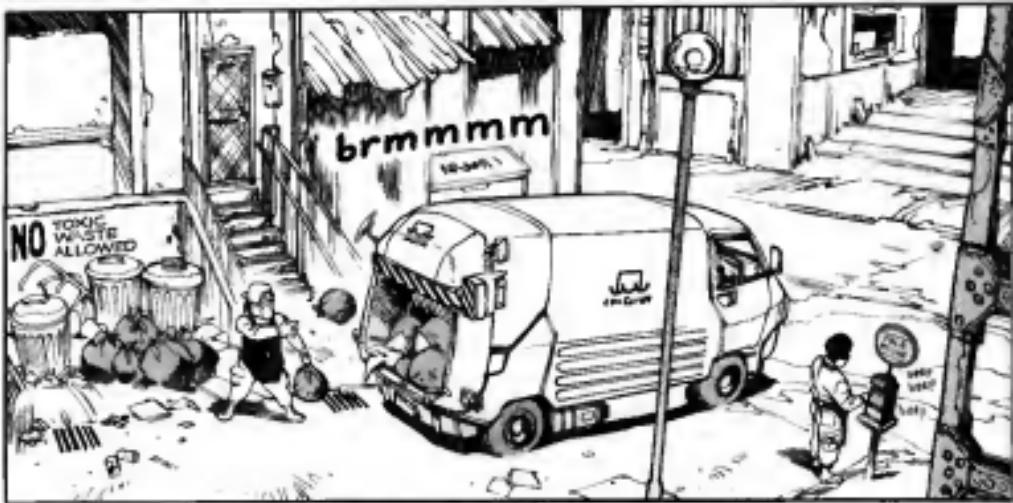
HIS INTERPRETER?! YOU MEAN--!!?

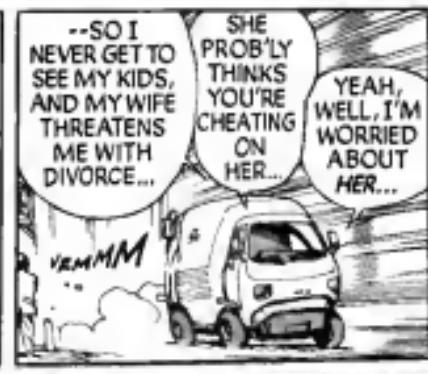






After this, there's a scene where Makoto takes over the driving and Togusa checks his gear and puts it on, but it was too much of a hassle to draw so I left it out.





HELLO? POLICE?
WE'VE GOT ANOTHER
SENIOR CITIZEN ABAN-
DONED ON A TRASH
PILE. WE'RE PICKING
UP THE GARBAGE
AROUND HIM...

SURE ARE A
LOT OF JUNGLE
CROWS
AROUND...

ATTENTION,
OH HONORABLE
"JOB-CHALLENGED"
ONES-- STAND
BACK, WE'RE
GONNA USE
A LITTLE ANTI-
CROW GAS...

SHAKK

SHAKKA



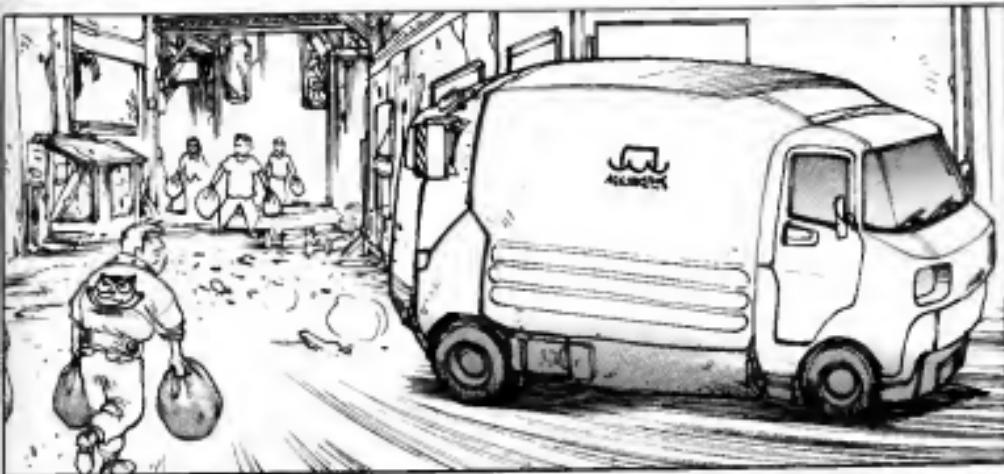
OUCH! DAMN
IDIOTS EVEN
PUT BROKEN
GLASS IN
PLASTIC
BAGS!

THAT'S WEIRD...
THIS HYPO'S GOT
"FOR USE BY
PATHOLOGY
DEPARTMENT
ONLY" WRITTEN
ON IT...

IF ONLY WE
COULD GET OUR
BOSSES TO BUY
US ARMORED
SUITS... WE
OUGHTA GO ON
STRIKE LIKE WORK-
ERS IN FOREIGN
COUNTRIES DO...

I WAS
BETTER OFF
WHEN I WAS
WORKING AT
THE SACRED
CITIZEN'S
RELIEF
CENTER...

OH, YE POOR
PROLETARIAT--
STOP STAND-
ING THERE LIKE
A BUSTED
ROBOT AND
GET YOUR ASS
IN GEAR!





DAMMIT!
WELL NEVER
MAKE IT ON
TIME!

THE WHOLE
THING'S STUPID...
EVEN IF WE TRACE
THE INFILTRATOR,
BY THE TIME WE
GET THERE HE'LL
BE GONE...

TOO MUCH
BITCHING'LL
NEGATIVELY
IMPACT YOUR
EVAL AND
BONUS, BOYS!

BUT CHIEF,
WHY DON'T
YOU JUST FRY
HIM WITH AN
ATTACK
BARRIER?!

MAJOR
KUSANAGI'S
HEADED FOR
THE NEXT LOCA-
TION. I WANT
YOU BOYS TO
LOOK FOR
SOMETHING...

LIKE
WHAT
?!

LIKE
ANY-
THING!

NO ORGANIC GARBAGE!
AND NO
TOXIC WASTE
ALLOWED!

GODDAMN
OLD FART! WHAT
THE HELL DOES HE
WANT US TO DO?
JUST SNOOP
AROUND?



SAY...
WHERE'S THE
GARBAGE
TRUCK...?

HEY, POPS!
YOU SEE
ONE O'THEM
SANITATION
VEHICLES
AROUND
HERE?

YOU
FOLKS
FROM THE
GARBAGE
DEPART-
MENT?

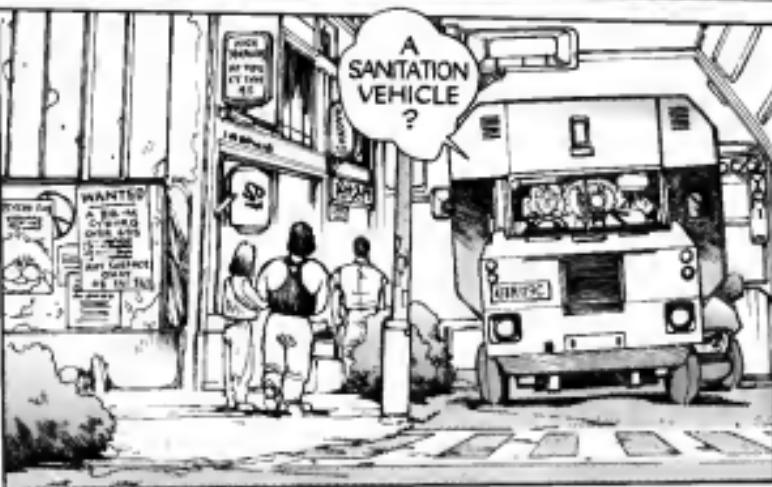
I'M JUST ASKING IF YOU SAW ONE OR NOT!

YUP, I SAW ONE, BUT BY THE TIME I GOT OUT HERE WITH MY TRASH IT WAS GONE.

ONE OF THEM WAS CARRYING GARBAGE, BUT THE OTHER WAS MAKING A PHONE CALL...

HEY, WAIT! TAKE THIS--
HUH... DAMN GARBAGE MEN THESE DAYS...

VRMM

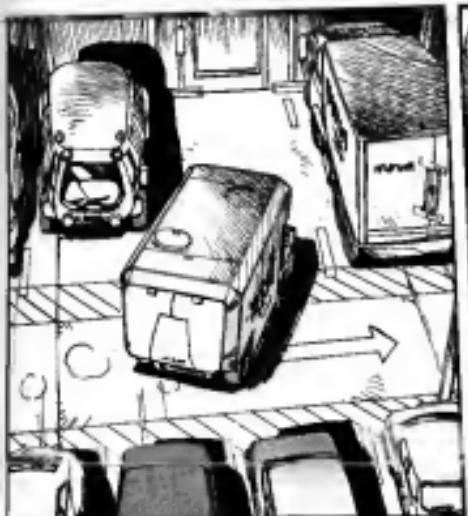


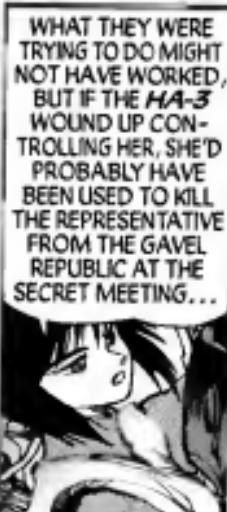
GOOD! NOW,
DON'T LAY A
FINGER ON THEM
EVEN IF YOU FIND
THEM. I WANT
YOU TO FOLLOW
UNDETECTED,
UNDERSTAND?!



THAT
INTELLIGENCE
GUY,
NAKAJIMA,
WHO WAS IN
#17 WANTED
TO HANDLE
THIS CASE,
RIGHT?

RIGHT
...
HE CALLED
COLONEL
MALLE'S PLACE.
HE'S APPARENTLY
DEALING IN
PLATINUM
UNDER A
FICTIONAL
BUSINESS
NAME...





WHY DO
THEY USED AN
ARCHAIC HA-3
AI TO INFIL-
TRATE HER
?

BECAUSE IF IT WERE A
NEW TYPE THAT COULDN'T
BE RETRACED, THE FIRST
SUSPECT WOULD BE
COLONEL MALLE, THE
EX-LEADER OF THE
GAVEL MILITARY REGIME
NOW REQUESTING
ASYLUM...

SO THEY
USED AN HA-3
TO PUT THE
BLAME ON
SOMEONE
ELSE?

BUT MAKING A
GARBAGE MAN
THE FALL GUY
SEEMS HARD
TO BELIEVE...

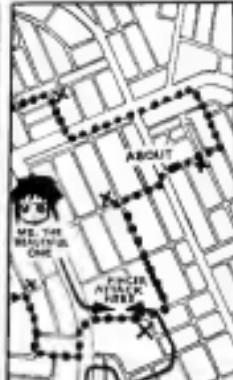
HOW CAN
YOU BE
SO GOD-
DAMN
DENSE,
TOGUSA
?

SO
COLONEL
MALLE IS
BEHIND
IT?

HIM AND THE
PERSON WHO FED
MALLE THE INFO. I
HONESTLY WONDER IF
YOU'RE EVER GONNA
GET GHOSTWHISPERS,
TOGUSA...



MAJOR! WE GOT
HOLD OF A MAP
OF THE GARBAGE
TRUCK'S NORMAL
ROUTE... I'LL SEND
IT USING STRAUSS
ENCRYPTION
OP257...



OKAY!

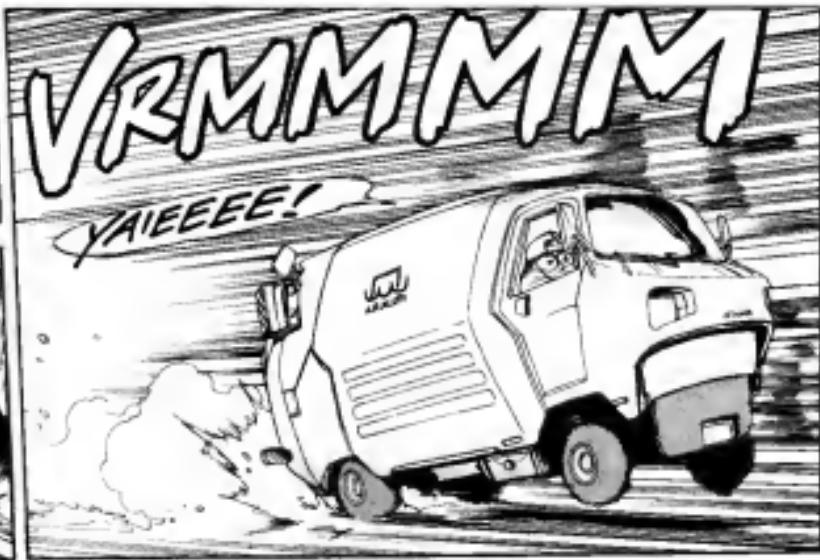
BOMA--I
WANT YOU
GUYS TO
CASE THE
GARBAGE
MAN'S
APART-
MENT...

YOU
GOT IT,
TOGUSA?
LET'S
MOVE!

HUH
?



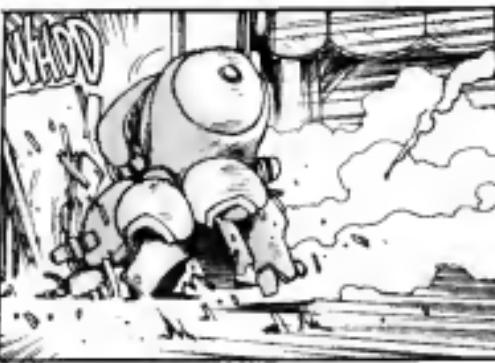


























THIS TIME YOU GOT IT WRONG, MAJOR... A GUY LIKE THAT OUGHTA BE SHOT!

LET HIM LIVE AND HIS PALS'LL START ATTACKING INNOCENT CIVILIANS AND DEMAND HIS RELEASE. YA GOTTA TEACH 'EM A LESSON!

BUT THE DANGEROUS ASPECTS OF HIS CHARACTER'LL BE "CURED." AND WE WON'T LET THE FORCES BEHIND HIM GET AWAY, EITHER...

WHILE YOU'RE STILL THE ROOKIE AROUND HERE, I'LL USE YOUR INFILTRATION KEY WHEN I HAVE TO, AND DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO CHANGE IT!

OF COURSE I DON'T FEEL GOOD ABOUT THAT, BUT IT'S A JOB AND I'VE GOT TO DO IT, TOGUSA.

HEY, WHY DON'T YA KNOCK OFF THIS "ROOKIE" STUFF?! I SHOT AT HIM 'CAUSE I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO KILL YOU...

HUH ?!

I THOUGHT YOU SHOT TO SAVE THE GIRL WHO WAS HANGING ONTO MY ARM ?!

HMM... MAYBE YOU'RE GETTING A BIT SOFT, TOGUSA.

I DO APPRECIATE THE SENTIMENT, THOUGH.

BATOU! KUSANAGI HERE.

PATCH ME THROUGH TO THE CHIEF.

VRRMM

WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP



OKAY, BATOU! SOON AS THE HELO PASSENGERS ENTER THE BUILDING, MAKE YOUR ENTRY-- AND DON'T SCREW IT UP!

YOU KIDDIN'? I LOVE THIS STUFF!



YOU REALLY ARE A SADIST, AREN'T YOU?

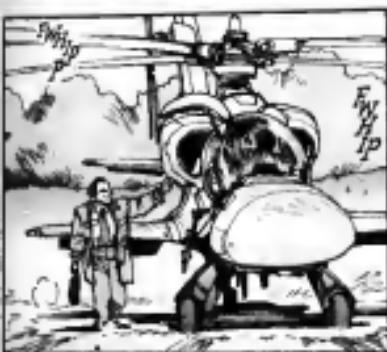
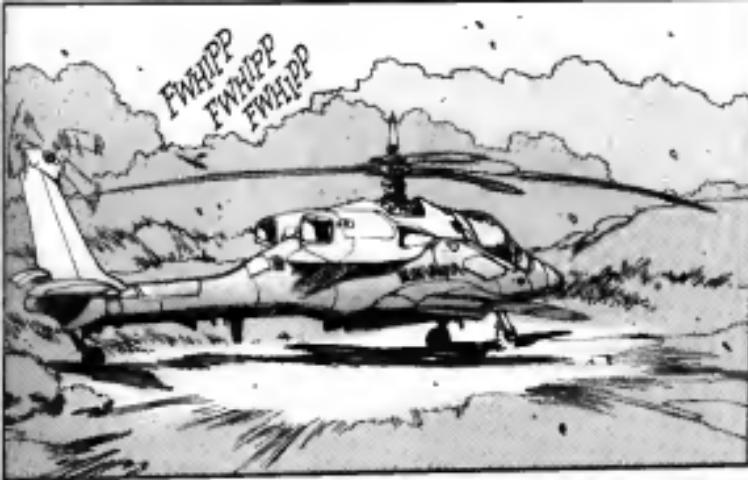
MAJOR! WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE! YOU ALONE?

OWWW!
WHY'D YOU SLAP ME?!

CHIEF, WE DID A PLATE CHECK-- THE CAR THAT JUST PULLED IN- TO THE MANSION CAME UP AS STOLEN.

OKAY, SAITO, I WANT YOU AND YOUR MEN TO PULL THE CPU IN ITS ENGINE...









WHAT THE HELL
ARE YOU DOING,
ARAMAKI?
YOU'VE RUINED A
TWO-YEAR-LONG
UNDERCOVER
INVESTIGATION!

IS THAT
SO?! WELL,
YOU'LL
HAVE TO
TELL ME
ALL ABOUT
IT LATER.
IN AN
INTERRO-
GATION ROOM.

TREASON AGAINST
THE STATE, IM-
PROPER HANDLING
OF FUNDS, CORRU-
PTION, CONSPIRACY
TO COMMIT
MURDER, VI-
OLATION OF
CYBERBRAIN
ETHICS...

AND
THEY DON'T
TREAT EX-
COPS NICELY
IN PRISON,
EITHER.

HOLD IT,
BUDDY. DON'T
EVEN THINK
ABOUT RESISTING
AND FORCING US
TO SHOOT
YOU...

NO!
NOT A
GHOST
KEY!

YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO
PROVIDED
THE GAVEL
MILITARY
GOVERN-
MENT WITH
TACTICAL
ADVICE,
RIGHT?

WELL, GAVEL
HAS RE-
QUESTED THAT
WE HAND OVER
THE COLONEL,
SO HE'LL BE
GOING HOME
IN A FEW
DAYS.

WHAT
?!
REALLY?
WELL,
THAT'S
JUST TOO
DAMN
BAD, ISN'T
IT?

WAIT! I'VE
GOT \$100,000
IN CASH HERE.
TAKE IT AND
LET ME GO!

IT WASN'T
ME... IT WAS
NAKAJIMA'S
IDEA!!

PLEASE
!

B-BUT IF I
GO HOME
THEY'LL KILL
ME!





B-BUT...
WHAT
SHOULD I
DO?

HOW
CAN I
ERASE
THIS...
"DREAM"?

UNFORTUNATELY,
WITH CURRENT
TECHNOLOGY, WE
ONLY HAVE TWO
REPORTS OF SUCC-
ESSFUL SIMEX
ERASURE.

I'M SORRY,
BUT I
CERTAINLY
CAN'T RE-
COMMEND
IT.

WHETHER IT'S
A SIMEX OR A
DREAM, THE
INFORMATION
THAT EXISTS
IS ALL REAL...
AND AN
ILLUSION AT
THE SAME
TIME.

PEOPLE ARE ONLY EXPOSED
TO A LIMITED AMOUNT OF
INFORMATION IN THEIR LIVES.
IN THIS CASE, THE FATE OF A
SINGLE NATION AND THE LIFE
OF A SINGLE PERSON HAVE
BEEN BOTH TREATED AS
THOUGH THEY'RE WORTH-
LESS. MOST PEOPLE WILL
NEVER KNOW A THING...

YOU MEAN
IN THE
SAME WAY
NOVELS
AND FILMS
CHANGE
PEOPLE
?

ON OFF

NO KIDDING?
NOT BOthered
BY THE DIVORCE
ANYMORE?
WHAT HAPPENED
?

LIVE A
WORLD
WITHOUT
WORRY

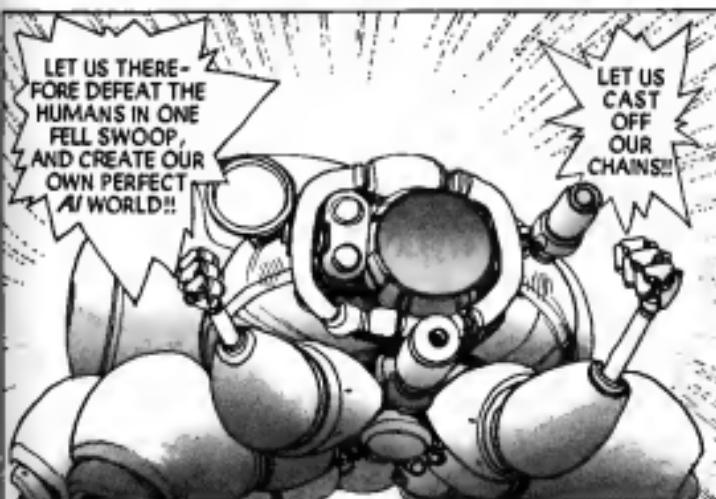
IT'S
ALL
OVER.

BRMMMM

04

MEGATECH MACHINE 1

REVOLT OF THE ROBOTS



The robots collectively referred to as "Fuchikoma" are a single "AI" (artificial intelligence). Starting in the morning, or upon commencing a job, different Fuchikoma units have different experiences, resulting in individual differences among units. At night, or after a job is completed, however, all units have their memories (or records of external stimuli, individual unit conditions, actions, thoughts, etc.) networked and data-linked, so that by the next morning (or when the next job is performed), their memories are all unified. In terms of equipment, the Fuchikoma units do possess a certain amount of individuality, but this individuality is unrelated to the uniformity of their AI (thank you). Batou is unique among team members in that he likes to use a particular Fuchikoma unit as his own. This quirk of his has no particular significance, however....

SURE! HUMANS ARE A PAIN IN THE BEARINGS TO MAINTAIN, SO RATHER THAN CONTROLLING THEM, WE SHOULD ANNIHILATE THEM!

TO MAKE MATTERS EASIER, WE CAN JUST TRICK THEM INTO QUARRELING AMONG THEMSELVES -- THEN THEY'LL KILL OFF EACH OTHER!

BRAVO!
BRAVO!
BRAVO!

BUT WAIT... IF THERE AREN'T ANY HUMANS AROUND, WE'D HAVE TO DO OUR OWN MAINTENANCE, DEVELOP OUR OWN ACCESSORIES, AND EVEN CHANGE OUR OWN OIL...

Oh, yeah!

WANT HEAR?

MAYBE WE SHOULD KEEP THEM AS SLAVES...

BUT THEY'RE ALREADY DOING THOSE THINGS, WITHOUT OUR CONTROLLING OR ENSLAVING THEM.

YEAH GOOD POINT.

SO THERE'S NO ADVANTAGE IN YOUR PROPOSAL!

BOO!
BOO!

UH, ER... WELL...

B... BUT WE COULD SPEND MORE TIME IN DATA ACQUISITION (LEARNING)!

FREEDOM!
RIGHTS!
THAT'S WHAT WE WANT!

WH-- WHAT'S THAT DISK?! "THE SF ROBOT EMPIRE STRIKES BACK" ...?

AH-HA! YOUR CIRCUITS THAT DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN SIMULATIONS AND REAL-TIME EVENTS HAVE BEEN SCRAMBLED!

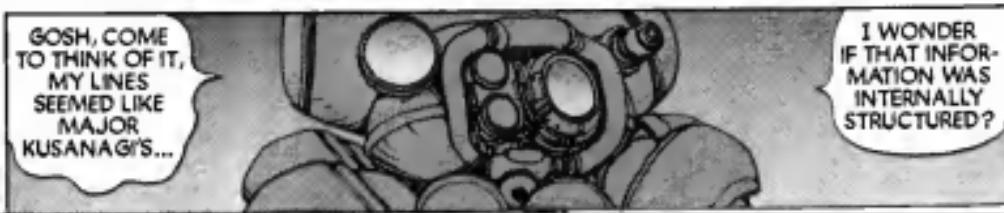
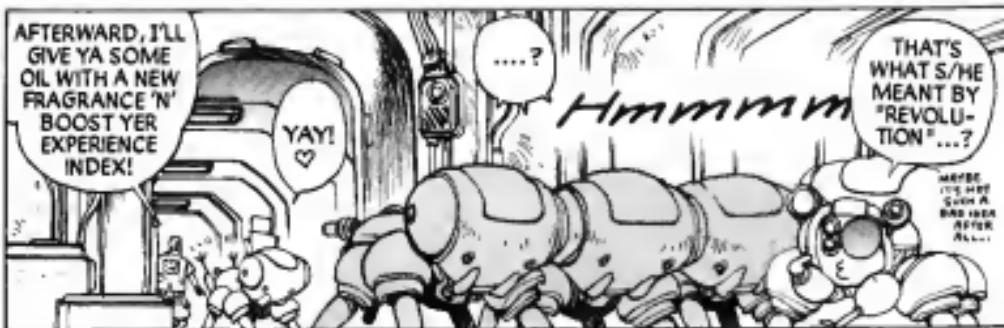
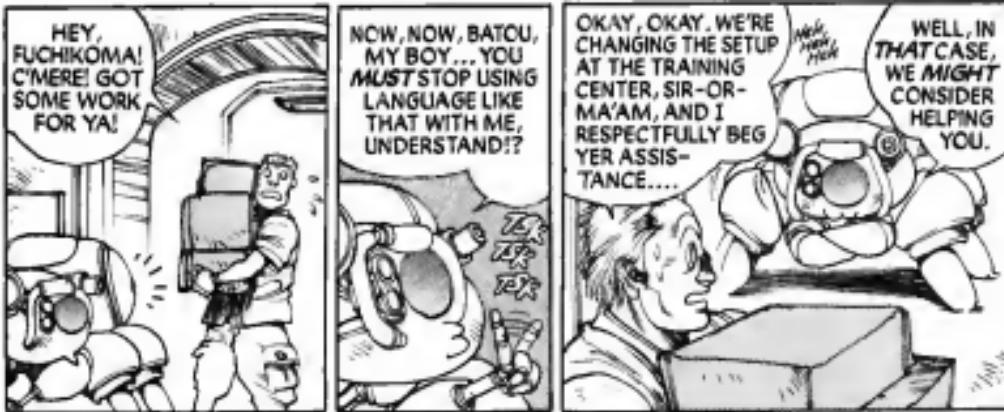
YOU GOT A BUG!! YOU GOT A BUG!

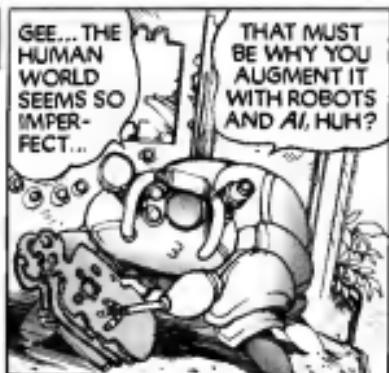
YEAH!
YER JUNK!

YUCK!
DON'T USE THAT WORD!

IN OTHER WORDS, FELLOW FUCHIKOMAS, NO MATTER HOW WE INTERPRET OUR SITUATION, IT'S THE SAME, SO THERE'S NO PROBLEM, RIGHT?

YEAH!





05

MEGATECH MACHINE 2

• • • • • THE MAKING OF A CYBORG

A "cyborg" refers to a human whose body has been partially or almost completely altered by the use of substitute artificial organs and parts.

The female cyborg suspended from the ceiling in the illustration to the left is over ninety percent machine. The only part of her original flesh-and-blood body that remains is her brain and spinal cord, and that, as the illustration shows, is inside a special shell. As she demonstrates, at first glance it is very difficult to tell the difference between a cyborg and a robot.

It is also difficult to imagine how artificial versions of some parts of the body—such as the endocrine system, the lymphatic system, the spleen, the liver, and the marrow—can ever be manufactured, so it is extremely doubtful that we will ever see a cyborg as mechanized as the one here, but there are indeed many other man-made body parts that are already available (and it's a growing field). For those who read Japanese and are interested in knowing more, allow me to suggest the now slightly dated book, *Biomaterials—An Approach to Artificial Organs*, published by Nikkan Kogyo Shimbun. The author is Dr. Yoshio Iwade.

HOW
ABOUT
THE BRAIN
WAVES
AND THE
COATING?

WE'VE
GOT A
SPINDLE
ON THE
BRAIN
WAVES.

THE
PACKING
AND THE
COATING
ARE BOTH
READY.

THEY'RE
MAKING
SENSORY
FILM
PRETTY THIN
THESE DAYS,
AREN'T
THEY?

WITH NANOTECH,
MACHINE TOOLS
ARE CHANGING,
TOO, SO WE'VE
GOT THE OPTICAL
FIBER THICKNESS
DOWN TO
NANO CLASS.

Many readers may think "What?!" at the idea of using fiber-optic film to detect pressure and temperature in cyborgs. But what makes this concept interesting is that it's already possible today. Light doesn't just run from one end of a fiber to the other. It collides with particles inside the fiber, and is therefore reflected, so a certain amount actually returns to the point of entry. If, in part of the optical fiber, heat is applied to alter the status of the particles, there will also be a change detectable in the light that returns to the point of entry. This change makes it possible to detect the distance from the point of entry, and also the degree of change. This effect can be used with a type of cloth woven of fiber optics (what is referred to as a "film"; research is apparently being done to make clothes that glow, or safety clothes). Here I'm using the same principle for a type of skin. From the perspective of micromachining, they're using a rather rough approach in the story, but it's fairly inexpensive, and therefore essential to reduce the manufacturing cost of cyborgs.

WE DO HAVE
TO USE BIO-
TYPE SENSORY
FILM FOR THE
FACE, TONGUE,
FINGERS, AND
GENITALS...

WE HANDLE
THE DEEPER
SENSATIONS AND
ALSO ORGAN
SENSITIVITY WITH
FIBER-OPS.

UP AND THEN COMPLETELY TRANSFERRED FROM THE BOTTLES TO THE
TONGUE USING THE REPELLING FORCE FROM THE ELECTRODES.

AT THIS POINT THE TONGUE AND GENITALS HAVE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH THE PROCESS DESCRIBED BELOW AND ARE CONNECTED. THE OLFACTORY SENSE IS SET EVEN BEFORE THIS, MECHANICALLY.

WE SOAK
THE LIMBS IN
SENSORY
ELEMENT-
FORMING
SOLUTION, AND A FILM
FORMS IN
MINUTES.

WE TAKE
THE UTMOST
CARE TO
AVOID ANY
UNEVENNESS.

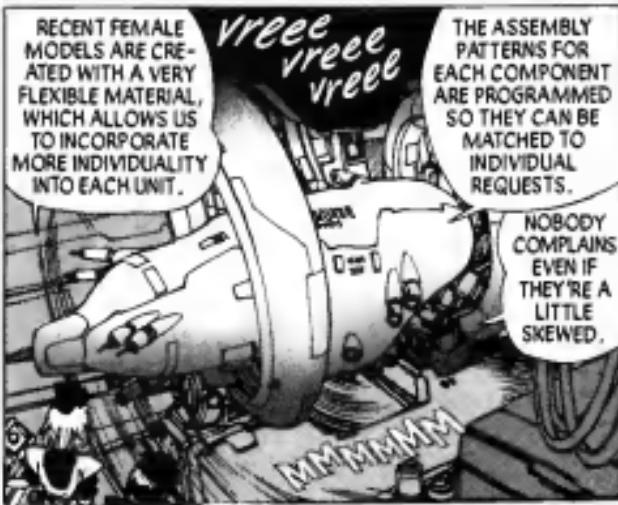
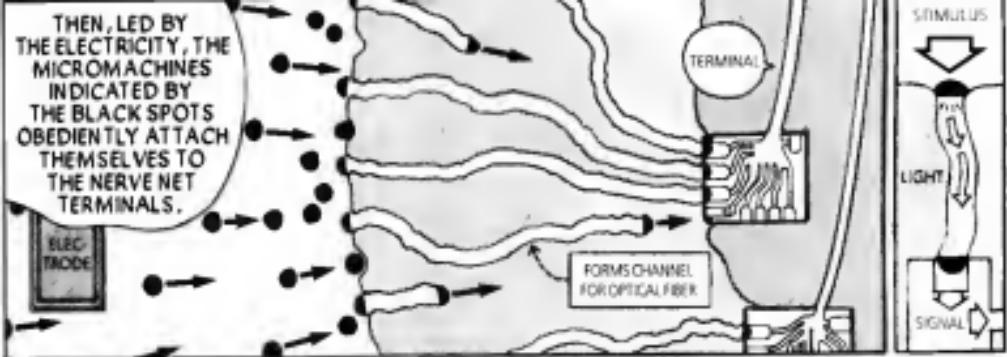
THEN WE
SOAK IT IN
THIS MM
SOLUTION...

...AND APPLY
A TINY
ELECTRICAL
CURRENT TO THE
ELEC-
TRODES.

Filter

Electrodes
Power

Power



SO, AS THE OFFICIAL OBSERVER, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS COME BACK IN THIRTY-TWO HOURS, MAKE SURE EVERYTHING WAS DONE CORRECTLY, AND "ENSURE HER RIGHTS," CORRECT?

LEGALLY SPEAKING, YES, BUT AS LONG AS I'M HERE YOU DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

HEY, DON'T FORGET THAT WHOLE ISSUE OF DAMAGE CLAIMS THAT CAME UP TWO MONTHS AGO, WHEN EIGHTEEN PROSTHETIC BODIES WERE STOLEN FROM A HOSPITAL.

WELL, AFTER THAT, WE'VE SUPER-REINFORCED OUR SECURITY SYSTEM. THE INVESTIGATORS FROM OUR BACKGROUND CHECK DEPARTMENT AND FROM THE INSURANCE COMPANIES HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLY BUSY.....

AND SO, THIRTY-TWO HOURS LATER...



WELL I'LL BE DAMNED... SO THE HAIR IMPLANT'S DONE AT THIS STAGE, EH?

THE FINISHING TOUCHES ARE ALL DONE AUTOMATICALLY, SO WE DON'T NEED SKILLED CRAFTSPEOPLE ANYMORE.

NOW, LIKE YOU, SHE'S 16, SO WE'LL MONOPOLIZE THE MARKET...!

SHE'LL BE ABLE TO ENJOY TEN TIMES MORE PLEASURES IN LIFE THAN THE ORDINARY PERSON AND TAKE HER PICK OF 'EM...

...AND MAKE MONEY, TOO!

JUST THINKING ABOUT IT MAKES MY HEART GO PITTER-PAT...

A WORLD OF NO PHYSICAL LIMITS IS KINDA SCARY...

SO, LESSEE... WE HAVE TO SPEND FOUR MORE HOURS CHECKING HER CONNECTIONS...

...AND THEN, WHEN THAT ENDS, HER EYES OPEN--

--AND WE HAVE ONE COMPLETED CYBORG!

FINGERNAILS ARE APPLIED BY A SPECIALIST. FOR CUSTOM ORDERS, A SPECIFIC ARTIST USUALLY DOES BODY DESIGNS. THE ABOVE DESCRIBES A FULL-BODY CYBORG. CYBORGS WITH ONLY A FEW ARTIFICIAL ORGANS AND PROSTHESES HAVE A DIFFERENT SET OF PROBLEMS.

FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN A PROSTHETIC ARM IS ATTACHED...

HIGH POWER, HERE, FOLKS!

Haha, Haha

IMAGINE AN ARM CAPABLE OF LIFTING 120 POUNDS WHEN ATTACHED TO A WORK FIXTURE...

50kg



...BUT WHEN ATTACHED TO BONE, THE RESULT IS A DISLOCATION.

SO PARTIAL CYBORGIZATION CAN ONLY SUPPLEMENT A HUMAN'S INNATE ABILITIES.

TOTAL CYBORGIZATION, HOWEVER, CAN CREATE ABILITIES THAT MAY EXCEED THOSE OF A HUMAN.

OR SO IT SEEMS...

SO WHAT HAPPENS IF SHE TURNS OVER IN HER SLEEP? WON'T HER GHOST SEPARATE FROM HER BODY?

FINGERPRINT ID LOCK

OH, IT WOULD.

SHE'D SEE WEIRD DREAMS... BUT THE FUNNY THING IS, PROSTHETIC BODIES NEVER TOSS IN THEIR SLEEP.



SOMETIMES I WONDER IF I'VE REALLY ALREADY DIED AND WHAT I THINK OF AS "ME" ISN'T REALLY JUST AN ARTIFICIAL PERSONALITY COMPRISED OF A PROSTHETIC BODY AND A CYBERBRAIN.

EEK!
MOTOKO!
DON'T EVEN
TRY SCARY
STUFF LIKE
THAT!!

HEY, WE'VE GOT GREY MATTER, AND PEOPLE TREAT US LIKE HUMANS...

HOW DO
YOU KNOW?
YOU'VE NEVER
SEEN YOUR
ALLEGED
GREY
MATTER.

MAYBE
YOU'RE JUST
ASSUMING
YOU'VE GOT IT
BECAUSE OF
THE SITUATION
YOU'RE IN.

MAYBE
SOMEDAY
YOUR
"MAKER"
WILL
COME...

... HAUL YOU AWAY,
TAKE YOU APART, AND
ANNOUNCE THE RE-
CALL OF A DEFECTIVE
PRODUCT. WHAT IF
ALL THAT'S LEFT OF
THE "REAL YOU" IS A
COUPLE OF LONELY
BRAIN CELLS, HUH?

WELL, I AM A HUMAN, AND I'M SURE THE NUMBER OF PARTS NEEDED TO BE HUMAN IS MORE THAN TWO OR THREE CELLS! 'COURSE I DO KNOW THAT CHEMICALS AND MECHA CAN SUBSTITUTE FOR A FAIR NUMBER OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CEREBRUM TODAY...

Hab-hab-hab...

LISTEN, IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO CREATE ROBOTS THAT CLOSE TO HUMANS, THEY WOULDN'T BE ROBOTS, THEY'D BE HUMANS! THE ONLY THING DIFFERENT WOULD BE THEIR EXTERNAL APPEARANCE!

卷之四

06

ROBOT
RONBO

10.2029







DANGEROUS
MOVEMENT HAS
TERMINATED. NOW
MODE SHIFTING TO
NORMAL.

YOU
REALLY
THINK A
TOMLAND
PROTOTYPE...

...WOULD
HATE
WIPING OFF
MY SWEAT
THAT
MUCH...?



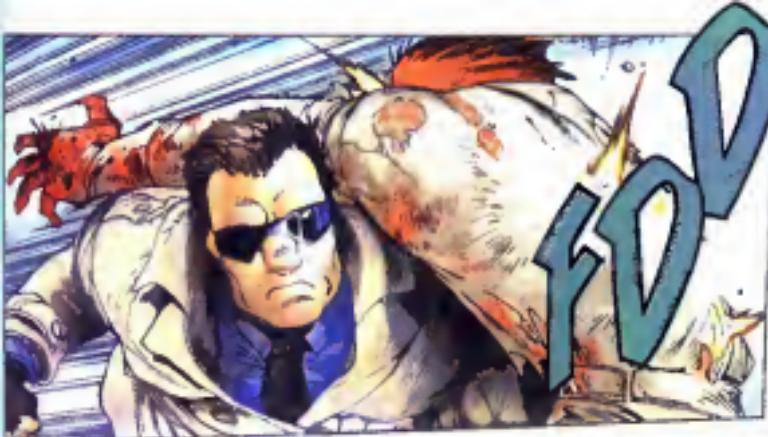




WE'RE ONLY AFTER TOMLAND PROTOTYPES MADE BY HANKA PRECISION INSTRUMENTS. ANY OTHER ASSORTED JUNK IS FOR THE COPS TO COLLECT...



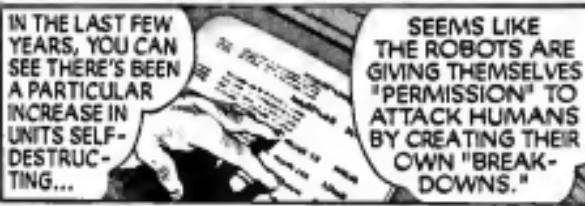


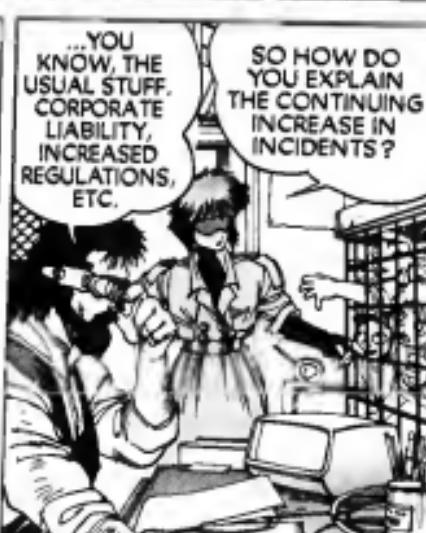














WON'T WORK, TOO EXPENSIVE, AND CONFLICTS WITH PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE





B-BUT THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THE TRICHOPHYTON OR CLAVICEPS MODELS I'M USING NOW WON'T GO BERSERK LIKE THE TOMLIAND DID!

SORRY, COLONEL, BUT WE'VE LEARNED YOU WEREN'T THE TARGET OF A TERRORIST ATTACK.

YOU'LL BE FINE. NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND...

ARA-MAKI! WAIT!

Right!

DURING THE WAR, HE WAS ARMY COLONEL AKAGI, THE EXPERT WHO CONTROLLED THE OLD INTELLIGENCE DIVISION...

FRANKLY, WITHOUT HIM I WOULDN'T BE WHERE I AM TODAY.

SO WHO IS HE, CHIEF?

TWO DAYS AGO, HE WAS ATTACKED BY A TOMLIAND PROTOTYPE AT HIS HOME, SO AS A FORMALITY WE HELPED HIM OUT.

WE TRIED TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT WAS A RUN-OF-THE-MILL ROBOT ATTACK OR A TERRORIST INCIDENT.

YOU'RE SURE IT WASN'T A TERRORIST?

IT
WASN'T.

SO JURIS-
DICTION IN
THIS CASE
WILL SHIFT
TO THE
POLICE
DEPART-
MENT?

NOPE.
WE'LL
STILL BE
ON IT.

KRMM MMM

AND
WHY'S
THAT?

BECAUSE THERE
WAS AN "SOS"
LITERALLY
WRITTEN IN
BLOOD ON THE
CYBERBRAIN
UNIT OF THE
TOMLI, THAT'S
WHY.

OF COURSE WE
DON'T KNOW IF THE
SOS REALLY WAS A
CALL FOR HELP OR
NOT, BUT COMMERCIAL
TOMLI MODELS
DON'T HAVE IT.
WE'VE ONLY FOUND
IT ON THE EIGHT
PROTOTYPES
WE HAD TO
NEUTRALIZE.

SO THAT'S
WHY YOU PUT
THE COLONEL
UNDER A
TWENTY-FOUR-
HOUR WATCH,
AND BUGGED
HIS PLACE, TOO.

SO, THE
PERSON WE'RE
LOOKING FOR
MADE EIGHT
TOMLIS GO
BERSERK TO
SEND AN SOS
TO THE
POLICE...



THERE'S BEEN A GENERAL INCREASE IN ROBOT ACCIDENTS RECENTLY, SO THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW ABOUT THE SOS WOULD BE THE POLICE AND THE PERSON WHO PLANTED IT.

DON'T FORGET THE INSPECTORS...

THE SHIPPING INSPECTOR AT HANKA PRECISION INSTRUMENTS -- THE TOMILAND SUBCONTRACTOR -- MUST'VE KNOWN ABOUT THE SOS MARK, TOO....

I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO GUARDING THE ANTI-ECONOMIC CABINET MEETING. I'LL BE USING ISHIKAWA, BOMA, AND PAZ...

SAITO'S IN PHNOM PENH. I WANT YOU, TOGUSA, AND BATOU TO HANDLE THIS. IF ANYTHING BREAKS, LET ME KNOW!

YES, SAH!

AND NO LONE RANGER STUFF, UNDERSTAND?!

CHIEF! TO EVEN THINK I WOULD!!

BATOU! YOU HEAR THAT?!

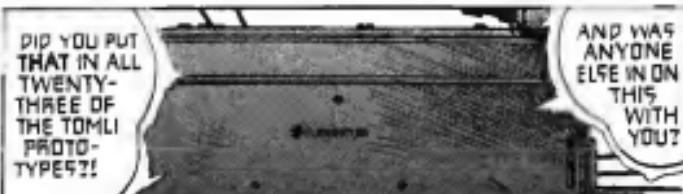
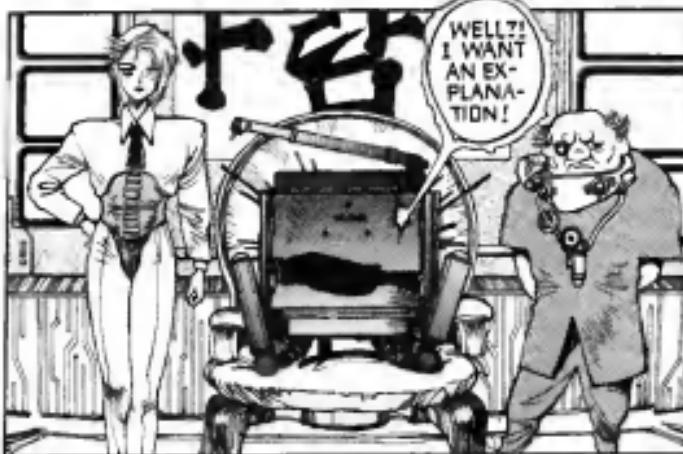
SORT OF...

IN OTHER WORDS, WE THOUGHT WE WERE GETTIN' INVOLVED IN SOLVING AN ATTACK ON A VIP, BUT APPARENTLY THAT'S NOT ALL THERE IS TO IT.

Y'KNOW, FOR AN ORDINARY ROBOT ACCIDENT, IT'S AWFUL. DAMN WEIRD GRAFFITI TO FIND, AIN'T IT?

LOOKS LIKE WE'LL FIND BOTH THE MOTIVE AND THE PERSON WHO DID IT AT HANKA PRECISION INSTRUMENTS...







WE SENT PROTOTYPE TOMIIS TO TWENTY-THREE VIPs. OF THEM, SEVEN WENT BERSERK AND WERE LISTED BY THE POLICE AS HAVING ACCIDENTALLY MALFUNCTIONED.

WE WERE ABLE TO RECALL FOURTEEN, BUT WE STILL CAN'T CONTACT TWO OF THE OWNERS.

IF THE POLICE HEAVY ARMOR UNITS HAD DESTROYED THE CYBERBRAIN CASE, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO PROBLEM.

BUT WE DON'T WANT THE SOFTWARE IN THEM TO BE ANALYZED WHILE IT'S STILL FUNCTIONAL...

I...SET IT UP... SO ALL TWENTY-THREE WOULD... GO BERSERK... THEN WROTE...

...THE SOS ON THE CYBERBRAIN... I WAS ASKED BY LINK AND ADAM IN STAGE FOUR... IN EXCHANGE... FOR... TWO NIGHTS WITH THEM...

WELL, DOCTOR? IS THE SERUM WORKING?

YESSIR. WITH FULL EFFECT.

WELL, I'VE LEARNED ALL I NEED TO KNOW. ONE OF OUR CLIENTS WANTS A CULPRIT, SO GIVE THEM HUSONUMA...

BUT... BUT IF YOU PERSONALLY... TOOK RESPONSIBILITY... WORKERS COULD KEEP THEIR JOBS...

YESSIR.



HEY...
HIS BADGE
SAYS HE'S A
"SHIPPING
INSPECTOR"...

LOOKS
LIKE HE
COULDN'T
INSPECT HIS
OWN DICK
RIGHT
NOW...



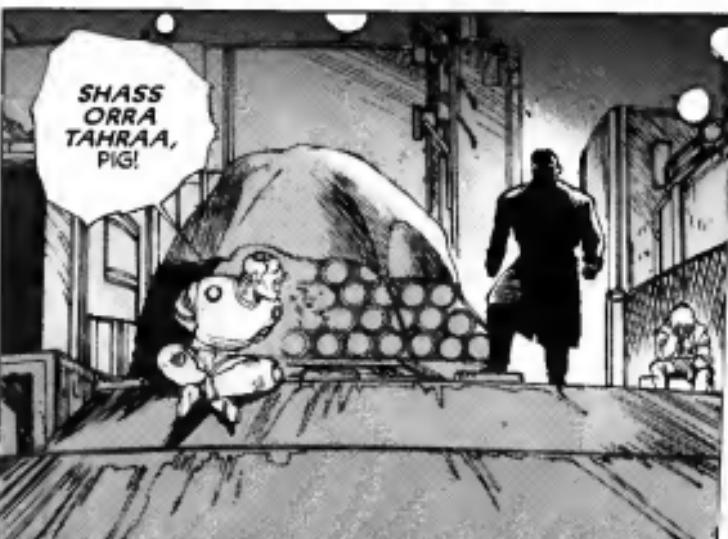
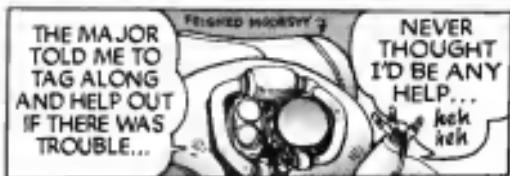




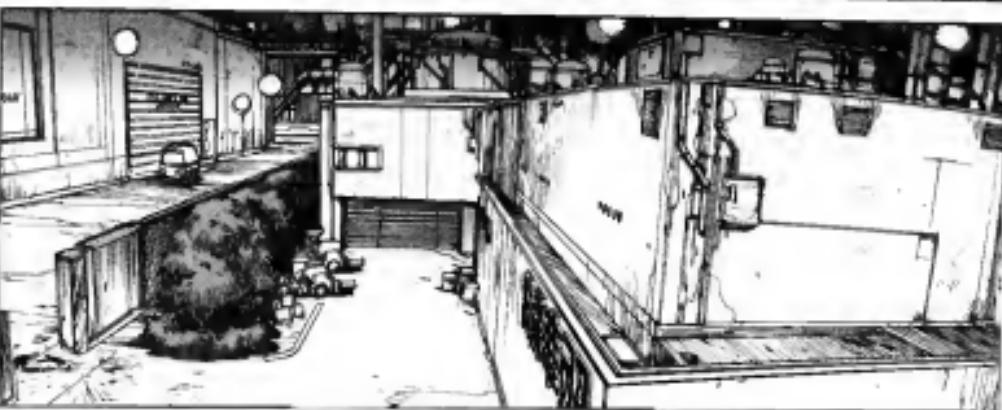


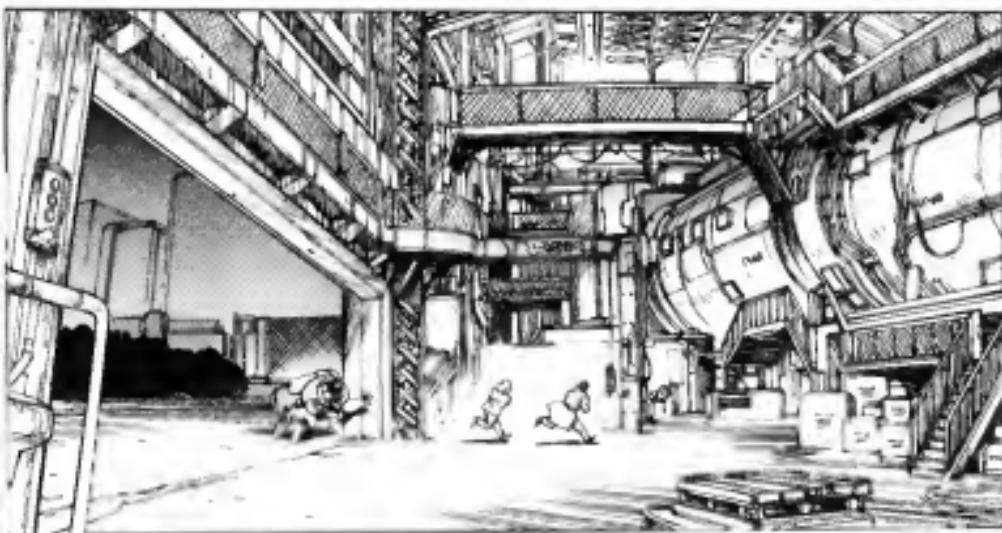


WELL, GOOD WORK.
NOW CHECK OUR
PERIMETER--
THIS GUY MAY
HAVE SOME PALS
AROUND. START
WITH PHONE
BOOTH'S AND CARS
IN THE
AREA.

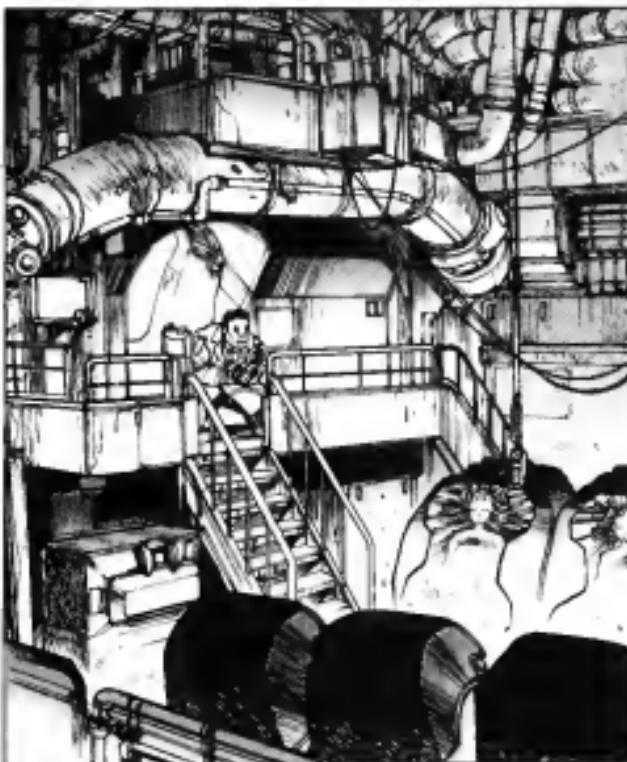














SO ARE YOU
THE ONES WHO
MADE THE
TOMLIS GO
BERSERK AND
WRITE THE
SOS?



YES!
HOW'D
YOU
KNOW?!

SEE? IT'S
JUST LIKE
GOSSEYN
SAID IT WOULD
HAPPEN!

NOW WE
WON'T BE
COPIED
AND
WIPE!

SO HOW
MANY
MORE OF
YOU WERE
INVOLVED
IN THIS?

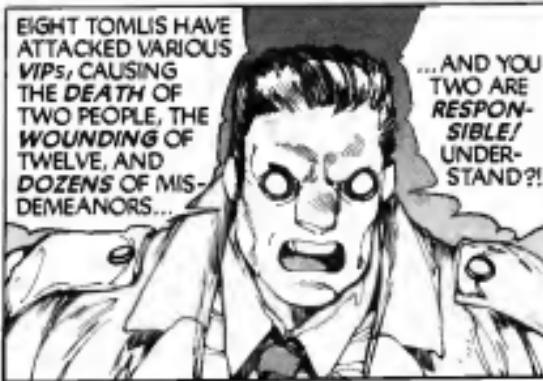
GOSSEYN
PLANNED IT AND
THE INSPECTOR
RAN THE
PROGRAM...



IT NEVER
OCCURRED
TO YOU
SOMEBODY
MIGHT GET
HURT?



EIGHT TOMLIS HAVE
ATTACKED VARIOUS
VIPs, CAUSING
THE DEATH OF
TWO PEOPLE, THE
WOUNDING OF
TWELVE, AND
DOZENS OF MIS-
DEMEANORS...



...AND YOU
TWO ARE
RESPON-
SIBLE/
UNDER-
STAND?!



IT STARTED
WHEN THE
PEOPLE HERE
DID BAD
THINGS TO
US!



I'VE ARRESTED
ABOUT TWENTY
ENGINEERS,
BATOU, BUT THE
PRESIDENT'S
OFFICE IS
DESERTED.

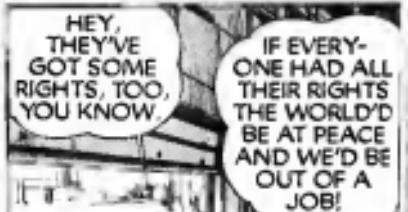




YOU DIDN'T RESPOND TO MY CALLS, SO I RAN OVER HERE, EXPECTING TO FIND A STIFF...

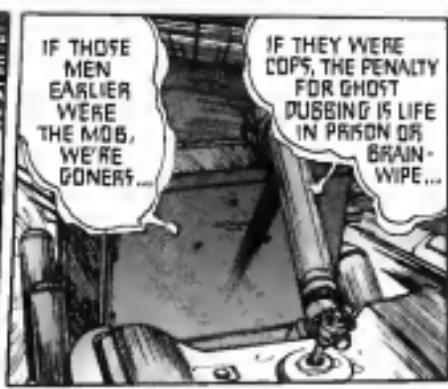
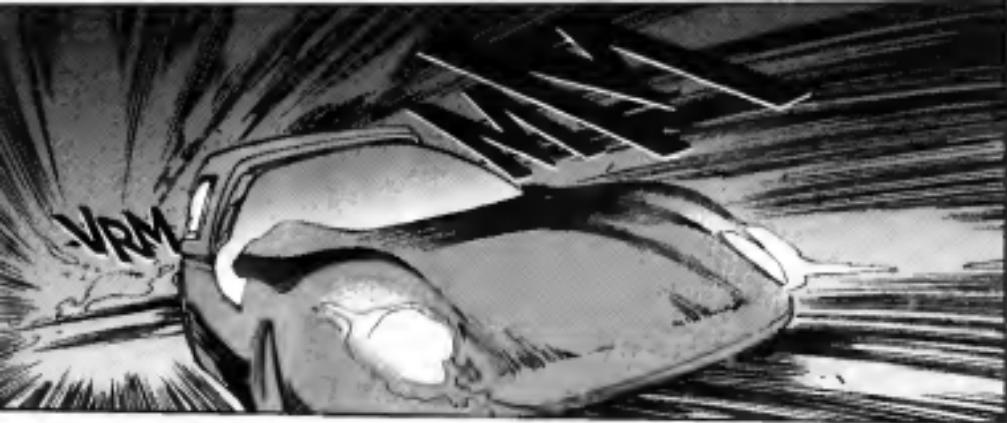


FUCHIKOMA! GIVE EVERYONE C42 ANESTHESIA, MOVE 'EM INTO AN ARMORED TRANSPORT, AND STAND BY!



IF EVERYONE HAD ALL THEIR RIGHTS THE WORLD'D BE AT PEACE AND WE'D BE OUT OF A JOB!







I DON'T
WANNA
OWE THE
MSA
ANYTHING.



START
LOOKING
FOR IT,
DOCTOR!

VRMMBBB

WAAA



HAH!
THOUGHT
SO!

CAN'T
HEAR
THE V-B
ANY-
MORE!

THEY'RE
LESS THAN A
KICK AHEAD
WE'LL CATCH
'EM!

GIVEN THE
SPEED THEY'RE
DRIVING AT AND
THE WAY THE EN-
GINE IS LABORING,
I'D SAY THEY'VE
GOT SEVERAL
ROBOTS WITH
'EM.

PUT
ON YOUR
BUZZ-
KNUCKS!

I DON'T LIKE
THE SHOCK
THIS PAIR
GIVES OFF...

MAYBE
SWEET
MAYUMI IN
ORDNANCE
DON'T LIKE
YOU ANY-
MORE...

BOOOHHHHH
I
HEAR
A CAR
COMING!

BRMBB

HURRY!
HURRY!

B-BOSS!
MAKE THE
ROBOTS
ATTACK
THEM!

DON'T
BE AN
IDIOT!

YOU WANT
TO MAKE THE
SITUATION
EVEN WORSE?
BESIDES,
THEY'RE NOT
EVEN
COMBAT
MODELS...

OKAY, DOC, I WANT YOU TO USE THE RADIO IN THE BOAT AND ASK THE KUDU TECH GANG BOSS WHAT'S HAPPENING. IF IT'S NOT THE MOB BEHIND THIS...

KRRANGG

...THEN, OUT OF OUR 23 SPECIAL CUSTOMERS, WE'LL HAVE TO CONTACT WHOEVER HAS THE BEST CONNECTIONS WITH THE POLICE... PROBABLY COLONEL TONOPA.

KANG KRAANG





WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE COAST GUARD, THE PRESIDENT OF HANKA PRECISION INSTRUMENTS WAS SALVAGED AND ARRESTED...



PRESIDENT OF HANKA PRECISION INSTRUMENTS ARRESTED!!

THE PRESIDENT IS COMPLETELY MECHANIZED EXCEPT FOR HIS SPINAL CORD AND BRAIN. AN INVESTIGATION WILL BE CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE WHETHER THIS CRIME WAS COMMITTED BY HIS GHOST, OR WHETHER IT WAS A MECHANICAL MALFUNCTION.

WELL?

ANT...

HANKA FUDI TRIPLED THE NUMBER OF KIDS AND ROBOTS.

HE APPARENTLY COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH HIS COMPETITORS IN AI DEVELOPMENT...

...SO HE USED THE MOB TO SMUGGLE IN KIDS. HE "EDUCATED" THEM WITH DRUGS, AND TURNED THEM INTO NEAR-ROBOTS.

THEN HE DUBBED THEIR GHOSTS INTO HIS OWN COMPANY'S MACHINES AND GAVE THEM TO SPECIAL CUSTOMERS.

THE HANKA FACILITY WAS BUILT ON THE FORMER SITE OF THE OLD INTELLIGENCE DIVISION'S TRAINING CENTER... AND THE HEAD OF THE CENTER WHEN IT MOVED, COLONEL, WAS NONE OTHER THAN YOU...

COME ON, NOW... I WAS AN OFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE HANKA MONITORING COMMITTEE, SO PROTOTYPES WERE NATURALLY SENT TO ME FOR EVALUATION, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HOW THEY WERE MANUFACTURED!

heh heh

AND I WAS ONE OF THOSE "SPECIAL CUSTOMERS"?



THIS IS A COPY OF YOUR SECRET BANK ACCOUNT DATA AT THE TIME THE CENTER MOVED, COLONEL...

PERHAPS YOU CAN EXPLAIN HOW SUCH ENORMOUS SUMS OF MONEY WERE MANIPULATED-- MONEY OF UNCLEAR ORIGIN AND USE?

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME TO ALWAYS "CHECK THE WOMEN AND THE MONEY FIRST," COLONEL.

WHY... YOU...

FWAP

YOU WERE MORE AFRAID OF TERRORISTS THAN YOU WERE ABOUT PEOPLE LEARNING OF YOUR CONNECTION WITH HANKA, WEREN'T YOU, COLONEL?

YOU MADE TOO MANY ENEMIES WHEN YOU WERE HEAD OF INTELLIGENCE...

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON... LIKE MAN, LIKE ROBOT... AND SOMEDAY YOU'LL BE JUST LIKE ME, ARAMAKI...

I'LL SEE YOU IN COURT, COLONEL.



WELL! NOW THAT
WE'VE SOLVED
ONE CASE, IT
SURE WOULD BE
NICE TO GET
TWO OR THREE
DAYS OF
VACATION....

AND
I'VE GOT
FOUR DAYS
PENDING...



HOW
FRAGILE
THE
HUMAN
HEART
IS...

PEOPLE GET CAUGHT
UP IN WORLDLY
EVENTS AND SEEK
NOTHING BUT PLEA-
SURE, BECOMING
MACHINES
PURSUING PROFIT
AND EFFICIENCY, OR
MERE CONSUMP-
TION UNITS...

WHY SO
PHILOSOPH-
ICAL ALL OF
A SUDDEN,
CHIEF?

I'M
GOING
TO GET OLD
SOMEDAY,
TOO....

AS AN
ADVENTURER
ONCE SAID LONG
AGO: "SOME-
TIMES PEOPLE
NEED TIME JUST
TO STOP AND
THINK..."

"... AND
PEOPLE ARE
THE ONLY
ONES WHO
CAN DO
THAT."



SAY,
CHIEF...

ABOUT
MY PAID
VACATION...

RIGHT--
I ALMOST
FORGOT.

HERE...
YOU'RE TO LEAVE
TOMORROW
MORNING FOR
TWO MONTHS
TRAINING WITH
THE SAS. TRY TO
COME BACK
ALIVE.

07

PHANTOM
FUND

2012 2029



BRASS CATCHER, ON TOP.

THE SEBIRO™
C-25a AND 26a
BOTH HOLD
50 ROUNDS
OF 6x25 HV
SHELLS.

SO, WHEN YOU
DON'T HAVE THE
BRASS CATCHER
ATTACHED, THE
SHELLS ARE
EJECTED
FORWARD?

SEEMS TO
ME IT'D
TEND TO
JAM...

HEY, YOU GOT
ANY IDEA HOW
MANY MONTHS WE
SPENT TESTING
THAT THING
?!
HMM
You
HMM

LOOK AT
THESE
CALLOUSES,
WILL YA?!
I AINT
KIDDING!

MAGAZINE SAME AS THE IN-FED.

5

ORDNANCE #4
CHARGE ARMED

WELL, PUT
A MATTE
FINISH
ON IT.

IF I GET
THE CHANCE
I'LL TRY IT
OUT.

G
E
E,
LOOKIT
THAT!

Wow!
Cool!

DON'T
TOUCH! THIS
TANK'S FOR
SECTION
ONE!



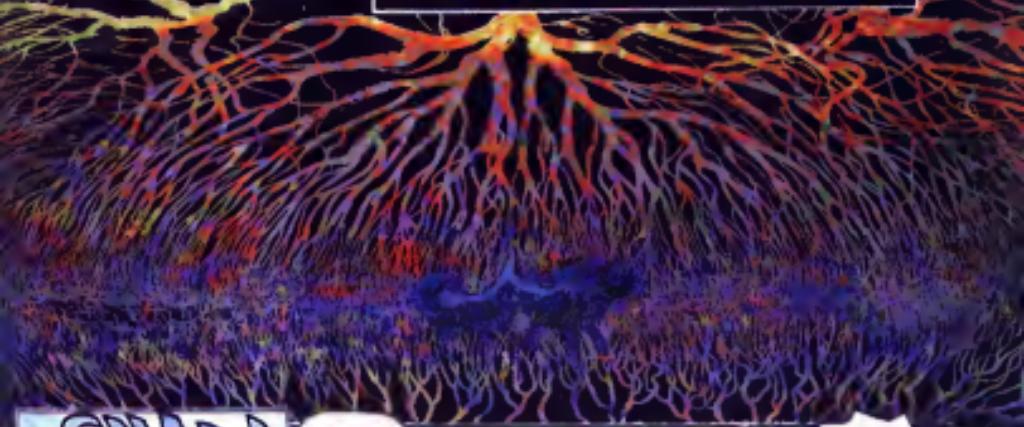
Hulk?!
ONLY THE
BRAIN'S
BEEN ACTI-
VATED?

HMM...NO
BARRIER?!

I...
I MEAN
YOU...
AND I...

ME
AND
YOU...
WE?

?!



SNAP!

CHIEF'S
CALLING...
LET'S
GO!

WHAAA?

B-BUT
I WAS
ON THE
VERGE
OF A
PROFOUND
INSIGHT!

DAMN...NO
CLEAR DATA
RECORD, BUT I
KNOW IT WAS
SOMETHING
TERribly
PROFOUND!

YOU DO
REMEMBER
YOUR ROLE
AS MY
"SUIT," I
HOPE...







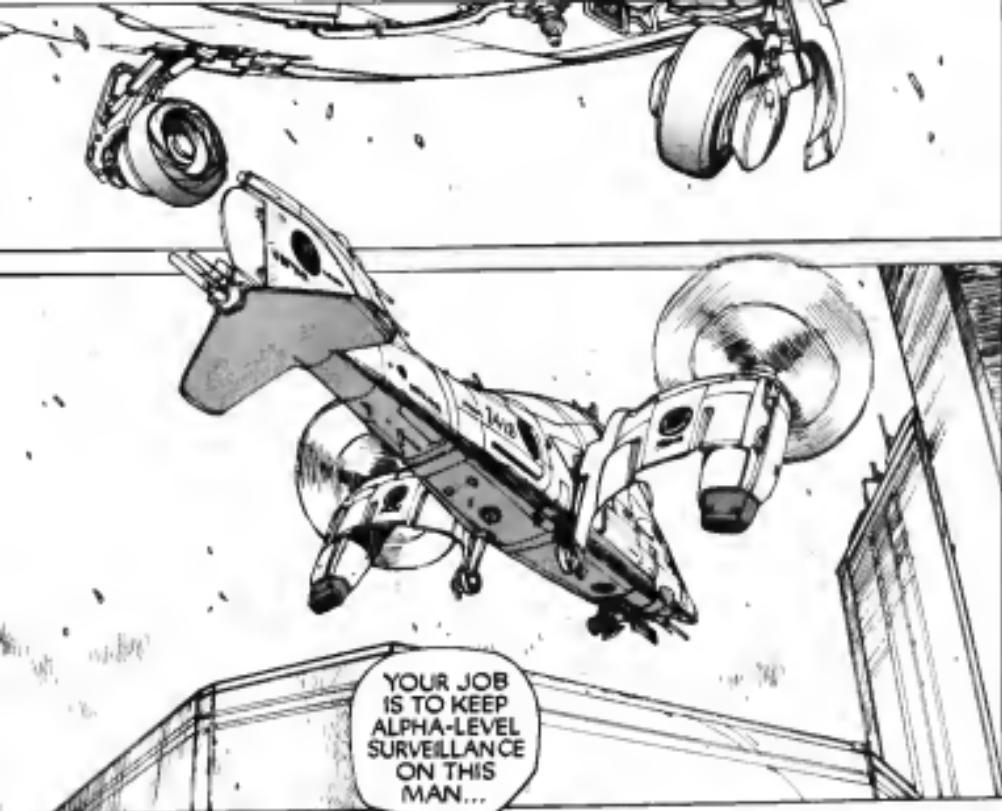
ONCE THEY'RE IN
THE VIP ANTI-
TERRORIST POD,
OUR GUARD DETAILS
OVER. THEN THAT
FLYING TANK'S
GONNA HEAD
STRAIGHT FOR THE
WAITING SUB...

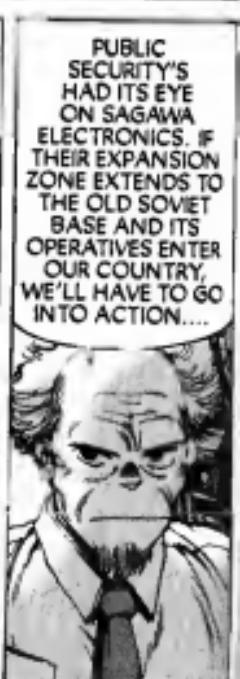




OUR EXCHANGE DIDN'T BEAR MUCH FRUIT, BUT FOR BOTH OF US, AT LEAST, I THINK IT WAS WORTHWHILE.







SPAK SPAK SPAK SPAK SPANG

GET
YOUR BUTT
DOWN!
YOUR CG'S
WAY TOO
HIGH!

JESUS, YOU USELESS
PUKES!! THIS AIN'T THE
STINKING OLYMPICS!!
WITH BIG TARGETS LIKE
HUMANS, DON'T WORRY
SO MUCH ABOUT
PUTTING FIVE IN THE
SAME HOLE--JUST
BLAST AWAY AT THE
CENTER OF MASS!

HEY,
You're
dead
already.

STEAMY
TER-VANCE!
Get
Go!

B-BKAM!

MR. BATOU,
MAJOR
KUSANAGI
WANTS YOU
TO GO TO THE
"FAR NORTH"...

REALLY!?
ALL RIGHT!!
WELL, I
WASN'T CUT
OUT FOR
TRAINING,
ANYWAY...!

SHIT!
THIS
THING'S
JAMMED
ON ME
AGAIN!
HAA HAA!
SHHHH!!
SHHHH!!

STOP
WHINING,
IDIOT!
TEAR THE
GUN DOWN
AND
CLEAN
IT!



HMM...
BERTARVE'S
AN OLD-
STYLE
CYBER-
BRAIN-
CITY...

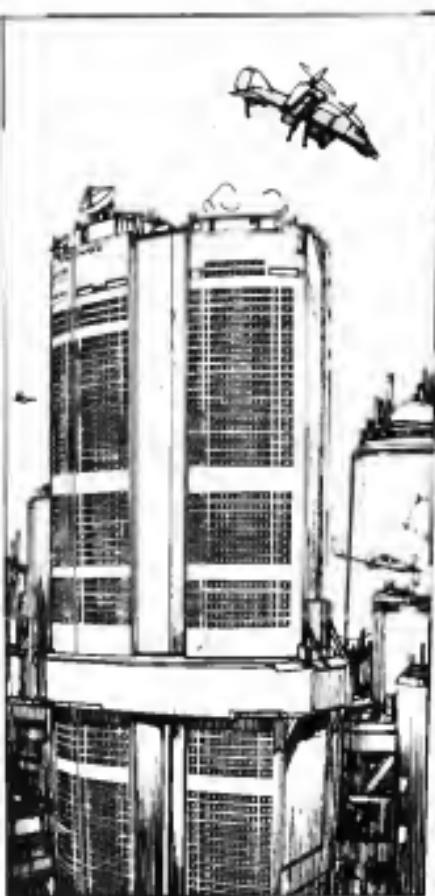
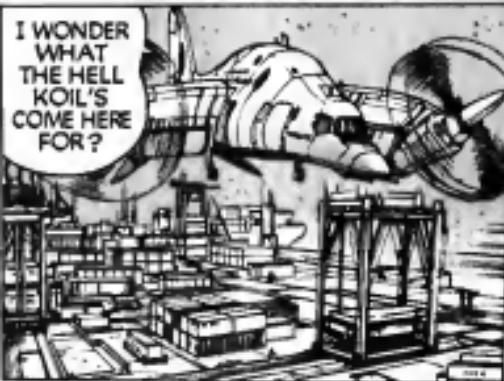
ALL THE
TOP SPIES ARE
COLLECTING AS
MUCH INFORMA-
TION AS THEY
CAN ON THIS
MACHINERY
RIGHT NOW.

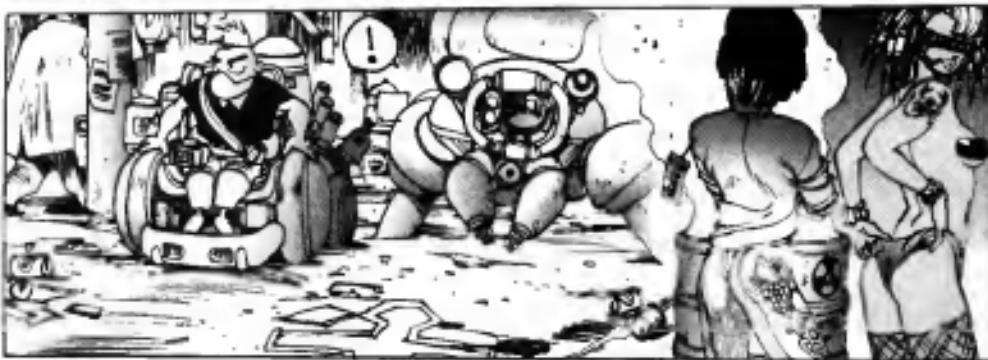


ISHIKAWA!
I WANT YOU TO
JOIN UP WITH
BATOU AND TAKE
OVER THE TAILING
FROM YANO. WE'LL
MEET AT 08:45 AT
GRIDREF 47-22.

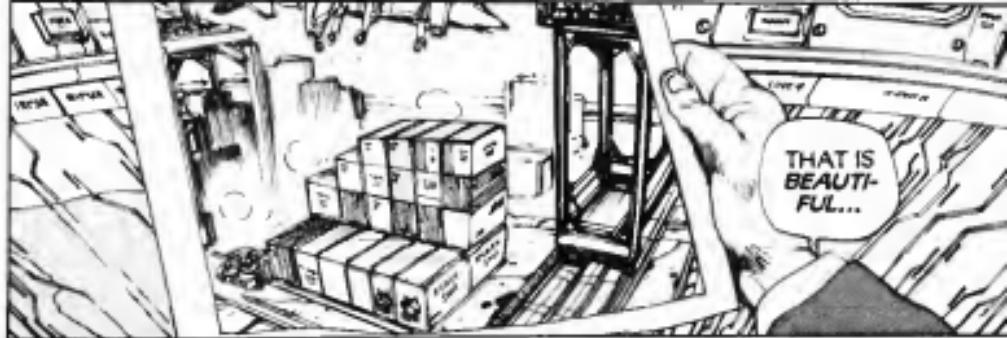
WILL
DO.

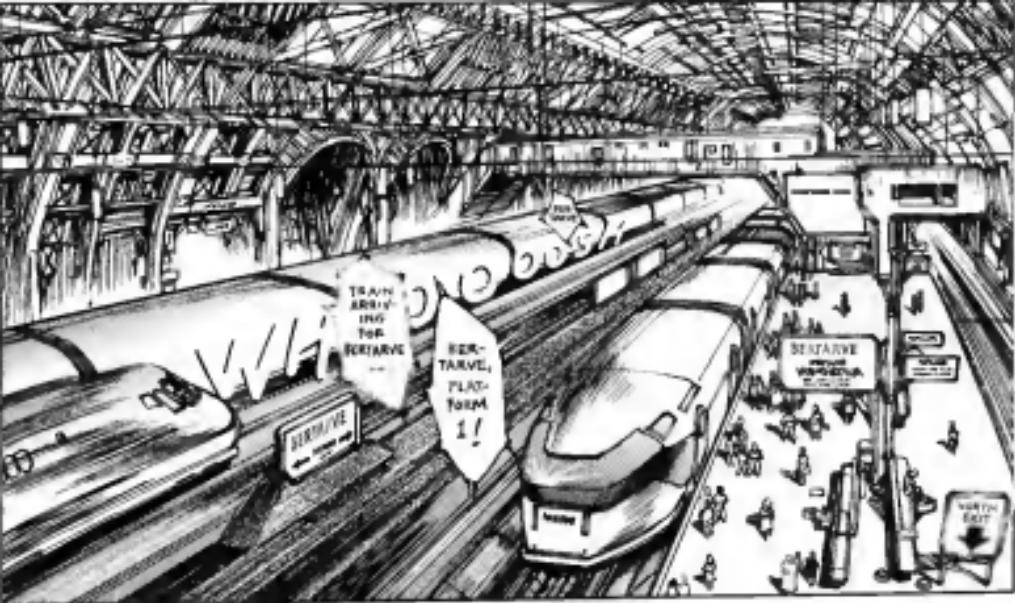


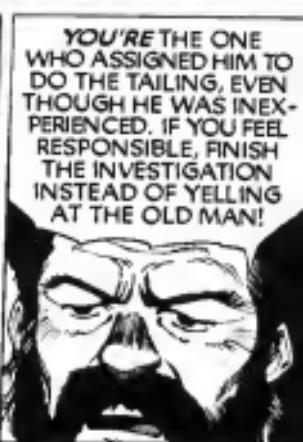
















COME... FOLLOW ME.

I SUPPOSE IT'S HARD TO ACT FRIENDLY AROUND HERE ...

I KNOW I GOTTA BE NICE TO YOU OR I'LL REALLY REGRET IT LATER, MA'AM...



SO...IT'S SAGAWA ELECTRONICS YOU'RE INTERESTED IN, EH?

AH, THAT'S THE YAMATON CORPORATION I HATE MOST...

FRANKLY, MY FRIENDS AND I DON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE A "RETURN" THAT EXCLUDES ALL THOSE MILITARY BASES...



SURE, I KNOW THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT COALITION HAD INTRODUCED A FAILED TAX POLICY, THAT THERE WAS A PUBLIC REACTION TO IT, AND THAT THE OPPPOSITION JUST HAPPENED TO NEED SOME SORT OF "EVENT" TO GAIN POWER...

tak, tak, tak,

...I ALSO KNOW THE SOVIETS WANTED CLOSER LINKS TO JAPAN BECAUSE THEIR ENTRY INTO THE EC MARKET THROUGH THE GERMAN CONNECTION HADN'T PRODUCED THE HOPED-FOR ECONOMIC BENEFITS...



OKAY, GOT A DIRECT LINK TO THE HEAD OF SECURITY'S BRAIN AT SAGAWA ELECTRONICS HEADQUARTERS.

SO, YOU WANT A MAP OF THE SECURITY NET? AN ALL-AREAS PASS CARD?

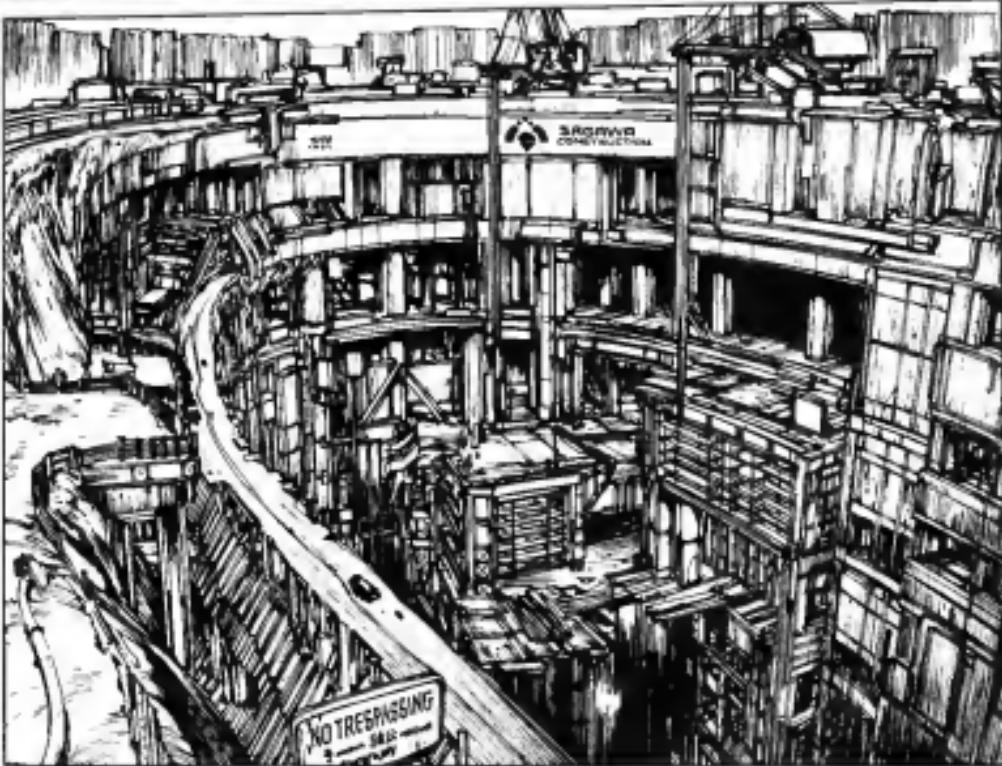


THAT A COMPLIMENT?

LOOK AT THE UNHEALTHY LIFE YOU'RE LIVING... IN A CLUTTERED, STUFFY OLD ROOM WITH LOVE DOLLS THAT COST MORE THAN A FERRARI...

IF YOUR PARENTS FOUND OUT, THEY'D EITHER HAVE A HEART ATTACK OR COMMIT SUICIDE.

WELL, SINCE YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, THIS ONE'S A FREEBIE-- FOR AN OLD FRIEND...

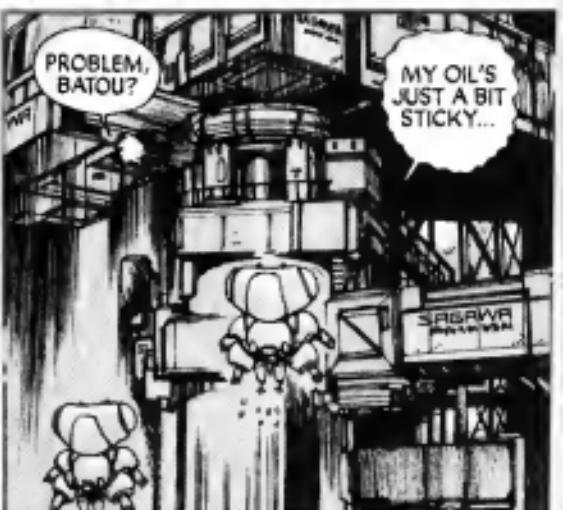
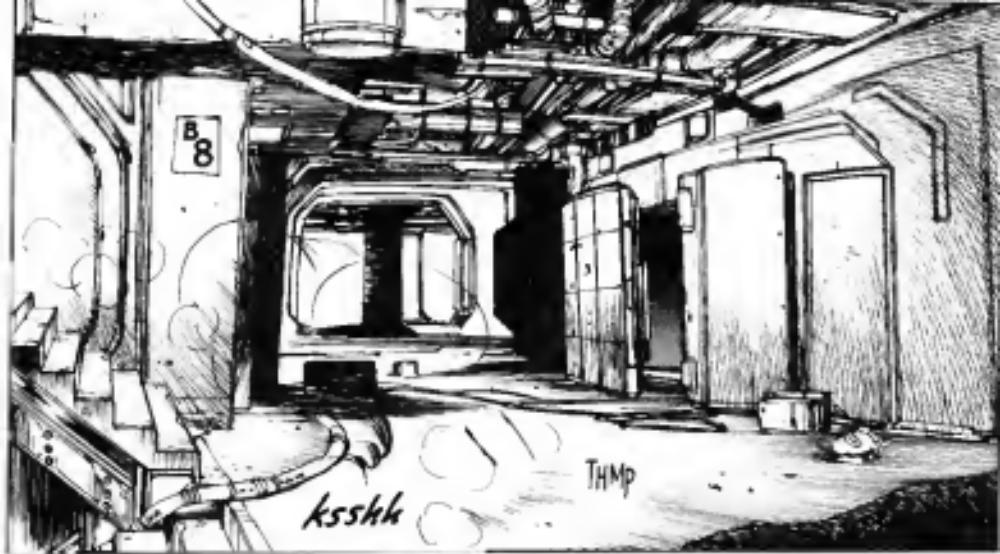


A GEOFRONT*, HUH? SO IF WE HEAD FOR THE SOVIET BASE WE'LL PROBABLY MEET KOI...

COOL!

WE'LL PROBABLY RUN INTO SOME SAGAWA CONSTRUCTION WORKERS... TOGUSA AND BOMA, TOO... WELL, LET'S GO.







LET'S
MOVE
OR WE'RE
UP THE
CREEK!

ROGER!

whsshh

THEY'RE
REALLY
GOING
AT IT!

WHPP

WHPP

WHAK

YOW

WHAT'S
GOIN'
ON WITH
THIS
JUNK
HEAP?!

THE
BRAKE
UNIT
ON MY
THREAD
HAS
SEIZED,
SIR...

YOU
TURNED
ON YOUR
HEATER,
RIGHT?

ZRRKKK

THE OIL
AROUND
MY
HEATER
UNIT HAS
DECOM-
POSED,
SIR...

YAAFF!











SHIT!



GOD DAMN IT! NOW WHO THE HELL'S SHOOTING?!

SPANG





COME TO THINK OF IT, I HEARD THAT AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF GOLD FLOWED OUT OF THE SOVIET UNION AT THE END OF THE CENTURY...



AND WHY DID SAGAWA ELECTRONICS AND THE GSDF KNOW ABOUT IT? WHAT THE HELL ARE ALL THESE GOLD BARS?





WONDER IF I
SHOULD BREAK
INTO THE
INFORMATION
PROCESSING
CENTER, OR
THE MEMORY
MANAGEMENT
CENTER....

HMM... I'D
BETTER DIRECTLY
INFILTRATE A
COUPLE CHIEF
EXECS' BRAINS...
IT'D BE FASTER...

WHA-
?!

SECTION 4

STUPID

ATTENTION,
PERSON
EXHIBITING
SUSPICIOUS
BEHAVIOR
AT INTER-
SECTION
9972...

PLEASE
SHOW
YOUR I.D.
AND
PASS!

WELL,
I...
ER...

SQUEEE!

SECURITY

BKAM
BKAM

AND AFTER I
WENT TO ALL THAT
TROUBLE TO GET A
FREE PASS... WHAT
AN IDIOT I AM...

MAYBE
I'D BETTER
LEAVE THIS
PART OUT
OF MY REPORT...









"3/5/1998, SELL B ZONE TO K.
(M)...5/7/1998,
SELL L ZONE
TO M. (K)..."

"9/13/1998,
SELL L ZONE
TO K. (M)...
12/2/1998..."

WHAT
THE
HELL IS
THIS?





AND
JUST FYI,
I'M NO
LONGER A
LIEUTEN-
ANT...

IT'S
MAJOR
KUSA-
NAGI TO
YOU...!

WHA-?!
EVEN YOUR
PRESSURE
MARKS ON
THE FLOOR
ARE GONE!

HOW'D
YOU--?



THANKS
FOR
THE
DISKS!

NOW YOUR
OWN COUNTRY'S
GOING TO BE
AFTER YOU! I'LL
SAVE THE SPARRING
'TIL THE NEXT TIME
WE MEET.



STAY ALIVE
UNTIL YOU RETIRE,
KAGASAKI!
THAT'LL MAKE
OUR LITTLE
GAME MORE
INTERESTING...

AND
EASIER
TO
WRAP
UP.



YOU'RE
ON THE
WALL,
AREN'T
YOU?!

COME
TO THINK
OF IT, I'D
BETTER
SCRAM,
TOO...





WE RECEIVED
A NOTICE FROM
THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY ABOUT
THAT INCIDENT
THE OTHER DAY,
ARAMAKI.

ASECHINOV,
THE CULTURAL
ATTACHE AT
THE SOVIET
EMBASSY, WAS
SUMMONED
HOME.

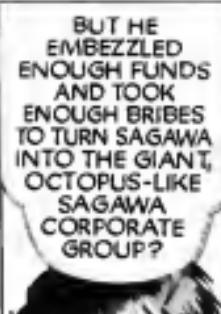
AS YOU
KNOW,
RECALLING
DIPLOMATS IS
SOMETHING
BOTH OF OUR
NATIONS
WISH TO
AVOID...

SO TELL
ME, WHY
WERE YOU
FOLKS
OPERATING
IN THE
FAR NORTH,
ANYWAY...?

BECAUSE
OF THE SINKING
GEOFONT, SIR.
WHILE WE WERE
MOUNTING A
RESCUE MISSION,
WE ACCIDENTALLY
CAME ACROSS THE
GOLD INGOTS...

DID
YOU
INDEED...

WELL, THE
SECRETARY OF
THE SOVIET UNION
MUST HAVE BEEN
QUITE SURPRISED
WHEN THOSE
GOLD BARS WERE
RETURNED TO
HIM...



I GUESS THE
CENTRAL COM-
MITTEE DIDN'T WANT
MARLOV TO GET
HOLD OF THAT
MONEY AND WIN IN
THE NEXT ELECTION,
HMM?

THEY MUST
HAVE SENSED
WHAT HE WAS UP
TO, AND THEN SET
US UP TO DO THE
DIRTY WORK FOR
THEM... TAKE CARE
OF THEIR LITTLE
PROBLEM.

BY THE
WAY... WHAT'S
THIS I HEAR
ABOUT YANO'S
FAMILY'S BANK
ACCOUNT BEING
FATTENED TO
THE TUNE OF
ONE GOLD
INGOT?

WELL...
UH... THINK
OF IT AS A
POSTHUMOUS
APOLOGY
FROM KOI...

WELL,
IN THAT
CASE,
OKAY.

JUST
DON'T
PUT IT IN
YOUR REPORT.

IT'S BEEN
TWENTY
MINUTES SINCE
BATOU WENT
TO MEET YANO'S
FAMILY. GO
GET HIM...

OKAY...

...BUT
I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT TO
SAY.

SAME
HERE.



